



House Committee on Insurance
Testimony Opposing House Bill 2459
Presented by Kristi Brown, Sr. Director of Government Affairs

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Kristi Brown, Senior Director of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber of Commerce. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to House Bill 2459.

The Kansas Chamber continues to support efforts to provide Kansans with the ability to access healthcare insurance options that best fits their individual needs. With that said, any type of health insurance mandate not only cause the cost for all those insured to increase, in this case, it also could eliminate the insurers the ability to appropriately manage cases.

The mental health crisis and the addiction crisis has taken a horrible toll on Kansans and their families. We recognize the need to do more to address these tragedies, but we do not believe this bill is a solution. Kansas law currently requires any proposed health insurance mandate to go through a specified process. First, proponents must submit a cost benefit analysis of the proposal, then the requirements must be reported and finally, after consideration by the legislature, the mandate must first be imposed on the SEHP to verify the information presented and the SEHP must report to the Legislature so it may determine if the mandate should be imposed on the rest of the State.

This process is a vital part of the deliberative process and should be followed before any consideration is given to a universal mandate.

We thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony opposing HB2459 and I am happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.