

March 20, 2019

The Honorable Ron Ryckman Jr.
Kansas Speaker of the House
State Capitol
300 SW 10th
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Speaker Ryckman and Kansas House Members:

The new availability of Association Health Plans (AHP's) is one of the most important developments in Kansas for small business. President Trump signed an executive order approving the new definitions on October 12, 2017. The final rule was approved by the Department of Labor on June 21, 2018.

Kansas law currently has a look-through definition of "small business." This definition negatively impacts Kansas small businesses by restricting their access to larger groups.

We are writing to reinforce the fact that many Kansas small businesses have plans to take advantage of the accompanying reduced costs and increased access to more reasonably priced health insurance. Kansas must first change its definition of "small business" to allow our associations and member companies to participate. House Bill 2054, which was recently passed out of committee, would accomplish our goal.

As the House debates ideas relating to "access to healthcare," we believe that AHP's deserve to be a top legislative priority. These plans will offer the most coverage and will likely have the broadest positive financial impact. Currently, there are several grandfathered association plans in place in Kansas and they are working well. By adding to these plans, while differently situated, Kansas small business will have more options to offer their employees health insurance.

Please know, we are concerned about the legislative position and perceived importance of this issue as we quickly proceed through the 2019 Session. We stand ready to assist in any way possible and appreciate your understanding how important it is to get the Kansas law changed.

Sincerely,

Associated General Contractors of Kansas
Associated General Contractors of Kansas City
Topeka Chamber of Commerce
Kansas Auto Dealers Association
Kansas Independent Oil and Gas Association
Kansas Society of Human Resource Management
Mid-America Tire Dealers Association
Kansas Restaurant & Hospitality Association
Kansas Society of Association Executives
Wichita Independent Business Association
National Association of Trailer Manufacturers

Kansas Grain & Feed Association
Kansas Funeral Directors
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
Quick Print
Kansas Chamber
Kansas Dental Association
Wichita Regional Chamber

