

HB 2602 Proponent
Portable Benefits
House Committee on Insurance
Tanner Tempel- Deputy State Director
Americans for Prosperity
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Chairman Sutton and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony in support of HB 2602. My name is Tanner Tempel, with Americans for Prosperity.

HB 2602 is an important step toward modernizing Kansas' labor and benefits framework to reflect the realities of today's workforce. A growing number of Kansans choose to work as independent contractors, freelancers, or self-employed professionals. Unfortunately, our benefits system remains largely tied to traditional employment models, leaving many workers without access to flexible, portable options that fit how they earn a living.

HB 2602 addresses this gap by creating a voluntary framework for portable benefit plans for independent contractors. The bill allows for contributions from multiple sources and clarifies tax treatment, all while preserving worker independence and flexibility. This approach expands access to benefits without imposing mandates or reclassifying workers.

From AFP-Kansas' perspective, there are three key reasons to support HB 2602:

First, HB 2602 expands worker choice while preserving flexibility.

Participation in these portable benefit plans is voluntary, and the bill does not interfere with existing independent contractor relationships. Kansans should not be forced to choose between flexibility and access to benefits. This legislation respects both.

Second, portable benefits reduce barriers to work and entrepreneurship.

When benefits can follow workers from project to project or client to client, it lowers the risk of starting a business, pursuing contract work, or supplementing income. This flexibility strengthens Kansas' workforce and encourages innovation and economic growth.

Third, the bill avoids costly mandates and unnecessary regulation.

Rather than imposing a one-size-fits-all system, HB 2602 establishes reasonable guardrails and allows the private sector to develop benefit solutions that meet workers' needs. This market-driven approach protects opportunities while keeping Kansas competitive.

Kansas has an opportunity to lead by embracing policies that reflect the modern economy while protecting individual freedom. HB 2602 supports workers, encourages innovation, and expands opportunity without expanding government control.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the House Committee on Insurance to support HB 2602.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Tanner Tempel
Deputy State Director
Americans for Prosperity–Kansas