

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, good afternoon. My name is Adam Obley and I am a Governor's Fellow working with the Office of Health Planning and Finance. I appear today in support of HB 2939 which adds three members to the Health Care Data Governing Board.

In our efforts to research and initiate health care reform for Kansas, we have found that Kansas has a substantial amount of health care data but that the analysis and format of that data is inadequate. This lack of information hinders efforts to understand issues related to insurance coverage, access to health care services, and outcomes and quality. No agenda for health care reform can succeed unless it is based on high quality data.

Additionally, employers are major consumers of health care data. Employers use these data to design benefit packages and to be informed consumers in the insurance market.

The bill before you simply adds three members to the Health Care Data Governing Board. One member would represent a large self-insured employer, one would represent a small self-insured employer, and the third member would be appointed as the Governor deems appropriate. The effect of this legislation is not to remove any members from the Board, but to enhance its membership with end-users of health care data. These new members can help identify the data that are necessary for businesses to be good insurance consumers and can help direct systemic reform in health care.

It is also our belief that adding end-users will encourage self-insured businesses to submit their data, thus broadening the scope of the information and investing it with greater value as we try to understand the self-insured market.

In conclusion, this bill will enhance the state's ability to manage health care data and better serve the employers and policy makers who use these data.

Thank you for your time.