

To: Chairman, House Insurance Committee

Re: SB 163 and HB 2243

**PROPONENT**

I am Roger Wood, a small business owner in Pittsburg, Kansas and I completely support the SB 163 and HB 2243 Mandate Lite Bills. These bills follow the Consumer Choices section of PPACA and instead of just nullifying Obamacare, they allow companies, groups, and individuals to have a choice in their health care plan instead of being forced into a one-size fits all government plan. They will have a choice of premium prices under the Mandate Lite plan or the so-called Affordable Care Act plan. Let the market decide with as little government hindrance as possible.

I first became interested in David Powell's concept when he brought Dr. Josh Umber of AtlasMD from Wichita to tell about his practice where he has 400 patients and an associate doctor has 500. He charges \$50 per month per adult and \$10 per month for children and has over 4,000 prescriptions at \$1 each and charges wholesale for labs. All of this is for wellness care at his office or the home of the patients 24/7. I spoke with David Powell that I wished that churches and chambers of commerce could offer this kind of model for health care and have a major medical group as well. Wouldn't it be great if church giving could help other members with their health care? Dave did some research and found that associations outside of employers for major medical coverage were outlawed about 15 years ago in Kansas. We hope that the insurance companies will allow groups other than employers under this plan. Many people hate their job and would leave if they had other group coverage, so this would free up job opportunities and free people to live happier, fuller lives which has to improve their health.

We feel that more affordable premiums will be available under this Mandate Lite bill and choices of coverage will also allow employers and groups to maintain their religious freedom by allowing them to pick and choose the medical coverage in their own group health plans. Maybe Hobby Lobby can establish their headquarters here instead of closing their doors and laying off a massive number of employees. These bills would also be a boon to small business owners who are often doing without group coverage now who could join through their church or Chamber or other organization like the Kansas Association of Realtors or Farm Bureau.

Kansas was a leader and a Free State before the Civil War. Let's exhibit leadership and allow our citizens freedom of choice.

Roger Wood

701 Thomas Street, Pittsburg, KS 66762

(620)235-3676

House Insurance  
Date: 3-18-13  
Attachment # 12