

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND INSURANCE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ruth Teichman at 9:30 a.m. on March 4, 2009, in Room 136-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Bruce Kinzie, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Melissa Calderwood, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Terri Weber, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Beverly Beam, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Kerri Spielman, KAIA  
Michael Tanner, Cato Institute (Attachment 1)

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chair called the meeting to order and asked Kerri Spielman, KAIA, to introduce the guest speaker.

Kerri introduced Michael Tanner, Senior Fellow, Cato Institute, who spoke to the Committee regarding health care reform. In summary, Mr. Tanner stated that he has no silver bullet to fix the problems with the Kansas health care system. He said the fact that much of his advice is in the form of “what not to do” may be disappointing to some. However, that is because he believes that in pursuing health care reform, legislators should be guided by the Hippocratic admonition “First, do no harm.” He said it is understandable that Kansans are frustrated by the inability of Congress to address the undeniable need for health care reform. He said yet, it is sadly true that the keys to health care reform lie in federal, not state, legislation. He noted there are limited steps that Kansas can take to make the situation better, but, in the end, should be extremely careful to make sure that impatience does not push Kansas into taking steps that will ultimately make the problem far worse, hurting Kansas taxpayers, businesses, health care providers and most importantly, patients.

The text of Mr. Tanner’s remarks is attached. (Attachment 1)

Following questions of Mr. Tanner, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.