

**Testimony in Support of HB2520 by Mr. Charles Vogt, Jr.
Part Owner/Sales Manager, All Star Awards and Ad Specialites
House Health & Human Services Committee
Monday, February 6, 2012**

Good afternoon Madam Chair and members of the Committee. My name is Chuck Vogt, Jr. and I am Part-Owner and Sales Manager for All Star Awards and Ad Specialties, Inc. I live and work in Overland Park, Kansas.

I am here today to testify in support of HB2520, which would call for Kansas to work together with other states to pass an interstate health care compact.

As a small businessman, healthcare continues to be one of my main concerns. In fact, for more than 25 years, health care costs have been cited as the No. 1 problem facing small businesses.¹ While costs are high for most people, they've risen more rapidly in the small business sector. Small business owners are trapped in a dysfunctional marketplace that suffers from a lack of competition, limited and expensive choices, and no flexibility in plan design.

Exorbitant health care costs which are continually rising force millions of businesses to choose between offering insurance coverage and creating jobs or hiring needed employees. Sadly, I am not convinced current policies adequately address the health care needs of the Kansas small business community.

Health Care is simply too large and complex to manage at the federal level. How can we expect Washington bureaucrats to solve a problem that they've helped create over the past several decades? Quite frankly, I have more faith in my local legislators and the Kansas legislature than I do in Congress.

We need a solution that will allow Kansans to tailor health care solutions that suit the unique needs of Kansans. One size does not fit all. Kansas has different needs than California, New York and Rhode Island.

The Health Care Compact does not mandate how Kansas will handle health care within our boundaries. It leaves us to decide how to create a system that fits **our** needs, providing greater accountability and more flexibility in delivering citizens and small businesses a more efficient and effective system.

I believe Kansas can manage health care better than the federal government. The Health Care Compact gives the Kansas legislature the ability to do that. As such, I urge you to support HB2520.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my comments.

¹ William J. Dennis, *Small Business Problems and Priorities*, NFIB Research Foundation, Washington, DC series.