

"PROGRESS THROUGH UNITY"



KANSAS STATE COUNCIL OF FIRE FIGHTERS



Affiliated With

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS • KANSAS AFL-CIO • CENTRAL LABOR BODIES

Testimony of Robert S. Wing in Support of Senate Bill No. 250

My name is Robert S. Wing. I am the Business Manager of Local 64 of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) in Kansas City, Kansas. I am a full-time Captain on the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department. I also serve as President of the Kansas Station Council of Fire Fighters. The State Council is comprised of approximately 30 local affiliates throughout the State of Kansas. Our State Council has requested that I appear before you to speak in support of Senate Bill No. 250.

Senate Bill No. 250 provides continuation of health insurance benefits for the surviving spouse and dependent children of fire fighters who give their life in the line of duty. The Bill provides benefits only for municipalities who provide for the payment of health insurance premiums for its fire fighters.

This Bill is designed to give some protection to the surviving spouse and dependent children of the fire fighters who gave their life for the community they served. We recently experienced the loss of a fire fighter in Wichita, Kansas, who perished in the line of duty. His spouse immediately was required to pay the full cost of health insurance for herself and her children. This caused grave financial hardship to her and her family immediately after the loss of her spouse.

This Bill would provide for the continuation of health insurance benefits in limited circumstances for a limited time period. We believe the costs will be minimal. We believe that this

benefit would be of great value to the surviving spouse and children and small repayment for someone who has given their life to protect the general public.

This Bill is supported unanimously by all of the affiliates of our State Council. We simply believe that this Bill is the right thing to do.

I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you. I will happy to answer any questions that you may have.
