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**Testimony re: HB 2041
House Insurance Committee
Presented by Ronald R. Hein
on behalf of
National Kidney Foundation of Kansas and Western Missouri
January 23, 2019**

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

My name is Ron Hein, and we perform lobbying services *pro bono* on behalf of the National Kidney Foundation of Kansas and Western Missouri. NKF KS/MO is a regional office of the National Kidney Foundation with a service area of the entire state of Kansas and the western portion of the state of Missouri. Its mission is to assist patients with kidney disease. It fulfills this mission through numerous services including raising funds for research; providing direct patient care and treatment; providing early intervention screenings; providing a camp for children with kidney disease, including kids on dialysis; organ donation awareness and numerous other programs.

I have gotten involved in the work of the NKF for some very personal reasons. I suffered from Type 1 diabetes as a child, and the diabetes caused my kidneys to fail. I have required kidney dialysis and organ donations in order to survive until this point in my life. My wife Julie, who most of you know, donated a kidney to me in 1996. I received a kidney and a pancreas transplant from a deceased donor, Lindi Curphy in 2007. That pancreas donation cured my type 1 diabetes after 44 years. I then received another living donor kidney from Matt Medling in March, 2015. When I first got sugar diabetes at age 14, my life expectancy was 33 years of age. I have survived until today due to the miracles of modern medicine and due to the generosity of all three of my organ donors.

We requested introduction of HB 2041, which would insure that life insurance companies operating in Kansas may not discriminate with regards to premiums or offering of life insurance for individuals solely upon the basis that such individual has been a live organ donor. Prior to introducing this legislation, we reached out to the lobbyists of insurance companies in Kansas to seek their feedback on this legislation. I want to commend these lobbyists and their respective clients for their efforts in trying to assist us with this legislation. We made several tweaks to the legislation, and I am hopeful that they are able to remain neutral on HB 2041.

You will hear more about this legislation from Sue Hendon, who will present verbal testimony, and I hope that you will also be able to review the written testimony which is also submitted in support of this legislation.

House Taxation Committee
February 20, 2003

Thank you very much for permitting me to testify and I will be happy to yield to questions.