

State of Kansas

Senate Chamber



Office of Democratic Leader

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Testimony in support of Senate Bill 252 Senate Democratic Leader Anthony Hensley

Chairman Sullentrop and members of the Committee:

I appear before you to express my support for Senate Bill 252. I believe this bill represents many of the finest virtues of the legislative process and the making of public policy – compromise and selflessness, bipartisanship and transparency, pragmatism and compassion.

This bill embodies Harry Truman’s old political adage, “It’s amazing what you can accomplish if you don’t care who gets the credit.”

From my perspective, if this bill becomes law, thousands of Kansans will greatly benefit from its results. It will create new jobs and improve the economy of our state. It will help hospitals and providers keep their doors open, especially in rural parts of our state. And, most importantly, it will provide access to healthcare to uninsured Kansans, many of whom are already working but earn too much to qualify for Medicaid or too little to afford meaningful private insurance coverage.

A disabled American, who spent most of his adult life in leg braces or in a wheelchair, once said, “It is better to have the occasional faults of a government living in the spirit of charity than the consistent omissions of a government frozen in the ice of its own indifference.”

That disabled American was Franklin Roosevelt, 32nd President of the United States. I believe what he said was the absolute truth then as it is the absolute truth today.

I ask this Committee to report favorably Senate Bill 252.