



Testimony before the  
**House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development**  
on  
**HB 2059 – Workers compensation; relating to medical guides for the determination of permanent  
impairment**  
by  
**Mark Tallman, Associate Executive Director for Advocacy**  
**January 31, 2017**

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Association of School Boards Workers Compensation Fund thanks the committee for the opportunity to express its opposition to **HB 2059** which proposes reinstatement of the AMA Guides to Permanent Disability, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, rather than continue with use of the 6<sup>th</sup> Edition.

As a provider of workers compensation insurance to 110 K-12 public education entities and community/technical colleges, the KASB Fund believes the developments in medical treatment and rehabilitation since publication of the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition justify the update in evaluation of disabilities in the context of work related injuries. Reliance on a 1993 publication when all aspects of medical care and rehabilitative medicine have advanced is counter-intuitive.

Having handled in excess of 500 claims since the legislative change to the 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, the KASB Workers Compensation Fund believes the newer version provides more consistency in claims handling, and still protects the injured workers with a fair level of compensation for any permanent disability they have sustained. Experience has shown that some injuries receive less based on 6<sup>th</sup> Edition than similar injuries would have provided under the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, but other categories generate higher levels of compensation.

The KASB Workers Compensation Fund requests no action be taken to advance HB 2059.