



Testimony to House Health and Human Services Committee

Supporting HB 2319

Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce

March 18, 2015

Chairman Hawkins and Honorable Committee Members:

I am Terry Dunn, Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. For 25 years I served as president of JE Dunn Construction, a \$3 billion company. As a life-long Kansan, I am proud to say JE Dunn handled the remodel of the Kansas State Capitol and construction of the new visitor's center. My wife, Peggy Dunn served as co-chair for Governor Brownback's 2nd Inaugural. Today I am here representing the private business sector and more than 2,400 KC Chamber business members and nearly 1 million lives on the Kansas side of the metropolitan area. On behalf of the KC Chamber, I provide this testimony supporting HB 2319, which will expand KanCare and provide important funding strategies and jobs in Kansas. Today I want to talk about the facts. And, the facts are as follows:

- **Kansas Budget:** The state of Kansas is expecting a \$400 million budget shortfall for FY2016. HB 2319 will enable the state to secure an estimated \$2.2 billion in much needed federal funds between 2016 and 2020.
- **Kansas Tax Payers:** Kansas tax payers are paying millions of dollars annually to support the ACA. But, without KanCare expansion, by the end of 2015 more than \$355 million in taxes and fees paid by Kansans to support the ACA will leave our state and go to D.C. and other states.
- **Employee Health Insurance:** Kansas wants to be known as a business-friendly state. Yet, without this bill and KanCare expansion, Kansas employers will pay higher prices for employee insurance because younger, healthier workers cannot afford employer-sponsored coverage.
- **Jobs:** Kansas leaders promote "job creation" as a top goal. Yet, a recent study by George Washington University shows that without expansion of KanCare, the state will lose nearly 4,000 new jobs in all sectors in the next five years.
- **Expanding the Workforce:** Kansas leaders and businesses want to move citizens off welfare rolls and back to work. Yet, without KanCare expansion, 27 percent of the state's economically disadvantaged citizens without a high school degree will remain unable to achieve self-sufficiency, which is important to the workforce and Kansas employers.
- **Health Care Costs:** Without KanCare expansion, the state's uninsured will continue to seek access to health care in the most expensive place—the emergency room—leading to increased costs for all Kansas taxpayers.

In summary, HB 2319, supporting expansion of the KanCare program, will bring health care costs down and jobs up. HB 2319 represents a Kansas solution to new federal regulations impacting Kansas employers, employees, health care providers, and Kansas communities. HB 2319 will provide a Kansas health care solution that will add much-needed funds to the state budget, reduce health insurance costs for Kansas businesses, and create jobs across the state.

The KC Chamber encourages the committee to pass the bill forward with a favorable recommendation. Thank you for the opportunity to express the KC Chamber's support for HB 2319 and KanCare expansion.

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