

TO: House Health and Human Services Committee

FROM: Heather Hartman, Mitchell County Community Development Director

DATE: March 11, 2015

RE: House Bill 2319 – Support

On behalf of Mitchell County Community Development, I am pleased to provide a letter of support for House Bill 2319, which requires the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to develop a federal Medicaid waiver for a budget-neutral managed care program known as KanCare 2.0.

KanCare 2.0 would provide access to health care coverage options for newly eligible individuals while employing personal responsibility through cost sharing and rewarding healthy outcomes and responsible health choices.

Mitchell County Hospital Health Systems provides nearly \$2.3 million in uncompensated care per year. That number has steadily increased over the last several years. If the KanCare program is expanded, the amount of uncompensated care will drop. The non-health care impact for Mitchell County is over \$175,000 per year.

Kansas hospitals have both a direct and indirect economic impact based on sales, wages and employment generated by business activity. When hospitals experience losses, so does the community they serve. The impacts reflect both income and retail sales as well as additional county tax revenue.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.