



**Written Testimony in Support of HB 2319**

**House Education Committee**

**Wednesday, March 18, 2015**

**Submitted by Tom Robinett, Vice President of Government Affairs, Overland Park Chamber of Commerce**

Chairman Hawkins and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee:  
On behalf of our Board of Directors and our nearly 1,000 member companies, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today in support of HB 2319, which requires the Kansas Department of Health and Human Services to develop a federal Medicaid waiver for a budget-neutral managed care program known as KanCare 2.0.

The healthcare costs of low income uninsured individuals in Kansas are currently being passed on to our businesses, including hospitals, healthcare providers and others in the system through uncompensated costs and higher insurance premiums. Expansion of Medicaid eligibility under KanCare 2.0 would provide significant relief from those additional costs, largely using federal funds available to the state.

Purely from a business standpoint, implementing KanCare 2.0 would allow Kansas to capture significantly more federal funds, stimulating economic growth throughout the state, including the creation of additional jobs and greater state tax revenues. In addition, it is generally accepted that healthier employees means a more productive workforce, and a more productive workforce means that businesses operate more efficiently and profitably, further boosting the economic health of Kansas.

Thank you for considering our comments, and we encourage you to support this bill.