



Testimony in Support of HB 2319

**Submitted by Linda Leeper
On Behalf of the Board of Directors of the
Shawnee Chamber of Commerce**

**House Health and Human Services Committee
Wednesday, March 18, 2015**

Chairman Rep. Hawkins and Members of the Committee.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce, we are providing this letter as 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.

It is about the economy as research indicates that not expanding KanCare is already hindering job creation and economic growth for 2014 and 2015. Because of this Kansas is not capturing hundreds of millions in federal matching dollars that would otherwise flow into the state economy to make expansions more affordable. It is about job growth within the healthcare field that will not be created without the expansion.

A major issue is the amount the state must pay for the state's share of KanCare. Currently the federal government pays 100 percent of the costs but in 2017 and later years, the state costs grow as the state's share increases. KanCare expansion would provide health insurance for many of these currently uninsured patients, reducing some of the state's funding support.

The expansion of KanCare would create economic growth and job creation at the same time providing access for affordable health care for 100,000 Kansans.

Thank you once again for your time and consideration; and your efforts on behalf of the State of Kansas.

*15100 W. 67th Street, Suite 202 • Shawnee, KS 66217 • 913.631.6545 •
www.shawneechamber.com*