

House Health and Human Services Committee

Testimony in support of HB 2319

March 18, 2015

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide testimony today. My name is Dot McIntire and I'm 56 years old. I live in Manhattan. Two years ago when the affordable healthcare act started, I became uninsured. The company I work for could no longer insure their part-time employees. Part-time is considered anyone working less than 32 hours a week. Because I take care of my mom I was not able to work that many hours and give her the care she needs. At that point, I checked in to other options. I applied for the health insurance marketplace but was told I don't qualify for the tax credits because I do not make enough money, and would have to pay the full amount for insurance which is more than I make. I then looked into Medicaid, but was told because I am not pregnant, have a small child in the home, or disabled I did not qualify. So I have just gone without any insurance.

Then in February of 2014 I had a shoulder injury and have not been able to work more than two days in a row, for six hours a day, or else my arm becomes numb. I was told that they cannot fix this so it is a for life thing now. My doctor is trying to get me on disability but it has been a slow process. To get my health care taken care of, I either save my money and pay cash for my doctors visit or I just don't go and deal with the consequences. My personal doctor has been helpful and reduces my fees by 20% if I pay in cash. I have had to go back on antidepressants which my doctor has given me a three month prescription so I don't have to pay for a visit each time. Although my fees are reduced, it is still a struggle for me to have to save money for visits when I have my personal bills to also take care of. Even at the writing of this I am sick, but will just weather it out, hoping it is nothing more than a chest cold. I do not have the \$87 for the office visit.

I feel that expanding Medicaid would help Kansans like myself to afford health insurance and not have to pay out of pocket for my medical expenses. If I had insurance, I would see my doctor more often and be healthier. Please expand Medicaid in Kansas and help consumers like me. Thank you for your time in hearing my story.

Dot McIntire

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