

My name is Claudia Peebler. I live in Derby, Kansas. I take calls and schedule appointments for the Derby Community Family Services food pantry and Good Samaritan fund which provides utility assistance. I see firsthand how the working poor and disabled suffer because of their lack of access to adequate, affordable healthcare. Folks describe the agony of having to decide between buying medication or food. Others relate stories of having to miss work (lost income) for relatively minor illnesses that have gone untreated and resulted in longer time away from work than would have occurred had they had access to a doctor's care.

I urge this committee to look closely at the costs related to not expanding Medicaid both in terms of increased costs to healthcare providers and to those without benefits. When a person is forced to use the emergency room for healthcare hospitals lose money and/or pass the costs along to those who are insured. Workers without healthcare benefits lose working time which translates into lost productivity for businesses and lost revenue for the State.

Your and my tax dollars are being sent to other states that have elected to accept Medicaid expansion funds. Please vote to expand Medicaid and end unjust treatment of our uninsured citizens as well as all Kansas taxpayers.

Thank you,  
Claudia Peebler  
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