

Like many people in Kansas, I have no health insurance. I haven't had health insurance in many years. My main way to deal with health issues is to stay healthy. So far this has worked for me, but I am getting older and I am also well aware that a fall that twists an ankle or breaks an elbow, as has happened so often to my peers, would leave me penniless and the emergency room not reimbursed at the rate that they expect. I cannot get on the ACA and purchase health insurance at their low rates, even if I could scrape up the money to do it, because I don't make enough money to qualify.

Another reason that Medicaid expansion would be a good thing is that my daughter is on disability and gets Medicaid now. Her main medical expense is a psychiatrist's visit every three months and several hundred dollars worth of medication every month. Those medications help her pay attention, keep her able to cross streets and go up and down stairs (otherwise she would freeze in fear) and keep her from hurting others and herself. She would have no quality of life without medication, and probably would be institutionalized or in jail. Because of the way that disability works, she needs to receive some amount of money from disability to qualify for the medical card. If she makes too much money, and gets no money from disability, she loses her Medicaid and then has to have enough money to pay for the visits and meds. Currently she is in community college. If she did manage to get a job after she gets her two year degree, given her problems relating to people socially, she would be able to accept that job and work if she were able to get health care through expanded Medicaid.

Expanding Medicaid would bring much needed money into the state, save the rural hospitals and bring health care to people who need it and can't get it in any other way. How could anyone possibly say no to that?

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