

House Bill 2319 – Support

House Health and Human Services Committee

Lougene Marsh, Director
Johnson County Department of Health and Environment

March 18, 2015

Chairman Hawkins and members of the committee – On behalf of Johnson County Department of Health and Environment, I am pleased to provide a letter of support for House Bill 2319.

KanCare 2.0 would provide access to healthcare coverage options for newly eligible individuals while employing personal responsibility through cost sharing and rewarding healthy outcomes and responsible health choices.

One of the essential services of a local health department is to assure access to care. With nearly 50,000 uninsured individuals in Johnson County, assuring access to care is a challenge. Johnson County's Department of Health and Environment has been active in educating the public about health insurance through the Health Insurance Marketplace and is happy that many individuals obtained coverage during the recent open enrollment period. Unfortunately, many individuals were not able to access insurance because their income fell below 138% of the Federal Poverty Level and yet exceeded the current Medicaid eligibility guidelines. Of the individual with whom the department worked, 37% were ineligible for the subsidy due to low income.

HB 2319 requires that Kansas Department of Health Environment develop a federal Medicaid waiver for a budget-neutral managed care program to be known as KanCare 2.0. This expansion plan would provide access to a greater number of Johnson County residents currently unable to qualify. This would significantly improve the lives of these individuals and would enhance the financial position of the local county health department, Johnson County Health Partnership Clinic (Federally Qualified Health Center), and the hospitals in Johnson County.

Johnson County Department of Health and Environment encounters individuals on a daily basis without access to care, and the department will use the expansion of Medicaid eligibility not only to increase the number of individuals with coverage but also as an opportunity to educate clients about how to utilize health care coverage to access preventative services and to seek needed medical interventions in appropriate settings.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments in support of HB 2319.

Health

11875 S. Sunset, Suite 300, Olathe, KS 66061
6000 Lamar, Suite 140, Mission, KS 66202
(913) 826-1200 • fax (913) 826-1300
TDD: 800-766-3777

jocogov.org



Environmental & Child Care Licensing

11811 S. Sunset, Suite 2700, Olathe, KS 66061
Environmental (913) 715-6900 • fax (913) 715-6970
Child Care (913) 477-8339 • fax (913) 477-8035
TDD: 800-766-3777

