

Written Testimony in Support of HB2319
March 18, 2015
House Human Health and Human Services
LaDessa Forrest, President, Kansas Occupational Therapy Association

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the House Human Health and Human Services Committee for the opportunity to support HB2319, which would expand Medicaid programs in Kansas under the Affordable Care Act. Medicaid expansion in Kansas would provide adults under 65 and their families with incomes up to effectively 138% of federal poverty level with health care services.

States that have expanded Medicaid have free or low cost health coverage for residents to assist in their management of their health care, which provides for benefits to the state through lower overall health care services costs.

Without expanded Medicaid, there are Kansas's families that fall into a coverage gap where no support is available for preventive as well as emergency care. Early, periodic, screening, diagnosis and treatment programs for children and adults available through health care coverage assists in allowing the families that fall in this coverage gap to lead more productive lives in Kansas.

Health care coverage also includes assisting individuals with restoring functions and maintaining functions through rehabilitation and habilitation. All of the services are designed to improve patient outcomes, lower costs and in return savings.

Expanded Medicaid will provide the opportunity for Kansas's families to manage their health care through prevention, wellness and chronic disease management. It is important to keep Kansas families healthy so they can live quality, productive lives.

The Kansas Occupational Therapy Association would ask your support of HB2319.

Thank you.

LaDessa Forrest, President
Kansas Occupational Therapy Association