



Salina Family Healthcare Center
A Federally Qualified Community Health Center

651 E. Prescott, Salina, KS 67401

Medical Center ~ (785) 825-7251

Dental Center ~ (785) 826-9017

Pharmacy ~ (785) 452-3900

House Bill 2319 – Support

House Health and Human Services Committee

Ann M. Feil, Chief Operations Officer

March 18, 2015

Chairman Hawkins and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Salina Family Healthcare Center, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 2319. House Bill 2319 requires the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to develop a federal Medicaid waiver for a budget-neutral managed care program known as KanCare 2.0. 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.

Salina Family Healthcare Center is a Federally Qualified Health Center providing general primary medical care through our full-spectrum family medicine patient-centered healthcare home. As part of our healthcare home, we also have a full-service dental clinic with 13 dental operatories, an in-house pharmacy, in-house diagnostic laboratory and x-ray, and an integrated behavioral health program. We employ approximately 120 paid employees and over 10 volunteers who assist with patient care and enabling services. Locally Salina Family Healthcare Center provides almost 40,000 medical and dental visits to nearly 10,000 patients.


SFHC primarily serves the target population of the uninsured and underinsured of the City of Salina and Saline County as well as Dickinson, McPherson, Ottawa, Ellsworth and several other surrounding counties. According to the 2010 US Census, there were 55,606 residents in Saline County, with 7,117 living below the federal poverty level (FPL), 2,252 of which were children. The primary barrier to care in Salina and Saline County remains access. Although we have made major improvements in providing access to high-quality, patient-centered medical and dental care through our clinic, there is still a significant population in the service area without access to medical or dental care. In Saline County alone, an estimated 13.9% of people live below 200% of the federal poverty level.

Of critical importance to safety net clinics, Medicaid expansion would cover all legal residents below 138% of the federal poverty level. This expansion would cover many uninsured patients currently seen at our safety net clinic. Additionally, new revenue would be generated in our clinics that will enable us to expand capacity and hire additional staff to meet the large demand due to lack of access. Finally, the expansion would also add new money to Salina's economy and contribute to local economic development.

Our Outreach and Community Resource Navigators work daily with individuals and families that are affected by the non-expansion of Medicaid in Kansas. One such patient is Susan, a 50 year old mother of three children, who was recently diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer. While she worked full-time to support her family, her employer did not offer insurance benefits and her income was too low to receive the Advance Premium Tax Credits for the Marketplace Insurance. Without insurance, Susan had not been to the doctor for years and could not afford yearly physicals and other preventative health care services, such as colon cancer screenings. Had Susan had access to these preventative services earlier through state-expanded Medicaid, her cancer most likely would have been detected sooner and been treatable. Now this mother and her family face a battle of terminal cancer which will unfortunately lead to an early and unfortunate death of a hard-working, deserving and caring woman.

Access to health care for Kansans is vital – please act to ensure the stability and viability of access to health care in communities statewide by supporting House Bill 2319.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ann M. Feil".

Ann M. Feil, RHIA
Chief Operations Officer