
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Kansas & Mid-Missouri**Testimony of Elise Higgins****Kansas Manager of Government Affairs****Planned Parenthood Advocates of Kansas & Mid-Missouri****Supporting House Bill 2319****House Health and Human Services Committee****March 18, 2015**

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Kansas and Mid-Missouri supports Medicaid expansion because it will save women's lives and ensure a healthier and more prosperous Kansas.

Medicaid expansion will save women's lives:

- Medicaid expansion uniquely benefits women. Women of reproductive age comprise almost three-quarters (72%) of the adult Medicaid population (age 19 and older), and at all ages, the majority of Medicaid enrollees are female. More specifically, an Urban Institute study demonstrates that 67,000 women in Kansas would be newly insured if Kansas accepts the federal money to expand coverage.
- For thousands of Kansas women, Medicaid makes the difference between access to cancer screenings and birth control or going without. Recent research found that Medicaid coverage increased the probability that a woman received a pap smear in the last 12 months by 14.4 percentage points. Under Medicaid, women also receive other needed health benefits, including treatment for chronic conditions.
- Additionally, according to a 2014 study by the University of Kansas Medical Center, more than 20,000 women who otherwise might not receive screenings for breast and cervical cancer would have access to them if covered by Medicaid.

Medicaid expansion ensures a healthier and more prosperous Kansas:

- In addition to the health benefits of expanding Medicaid, women and their families will have greater economic security. Hard-working families need the security of quality health coverage to get the care they need when they need it without facing huge medical bills.
- A Guttmacher Institute study reveals Medicaid provides 75 percent of public funding for family-planning services in the United States. Even so, in 2010, 177,440 women in Kansas were in need of publicly supported contraceptive services and supplies, and 18% of those women currently have no insurance. Meanwhile, Kansas women have an unintended pregnancy at a rate of 48 per 1,000 women aged 15-44. Expanding low income women's access to coverage for family planning services means women are better able to plan their futures and provide for their families.
- When women do choose to start or grow their families, Medicaid coverage of childbirth will save public hospitals and families considerable dollars.
- Having Medicaid as a fallback option is critical for women who may lose private health insurance. Because women are more likely than men to be covered as dependents, a woman is at greater risk of losing her insurance if she becomes widowed or divorced, her spouse loses a job, or her spouse's employer drops family coverage or increases premium and out-of-pocket costs to unaffordable levels.
- Finally, Kansas taxpayers stand to save \$29 million in 2016 and about \$36 million over the five year period 2016 to 2020 if Kansas expands Medicaid.

Accepting the federal funds set aside for Medicaid expansion is a win-win. It means that Kansas can cover more people, save taxpayer dollars currently spent to treat uninsured individuals, and pull significant federal funding into the state economy. Planned Parenthood respectfully urges the committee to advance the health and prosperity of Kansas women and families by passing HB 2319.