

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE VISION 2020 COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tom Sloan at 9:00 am on Monday, February 02, 2015, 218-N of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Scott Abbott, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Iraida Orr, Legislative Research Department
Natalie Teemer-Washington, Legislative Research Department
Mary Koles, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
Renae Jefferies, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

No conferees present

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Chairman Sloan welcomed today's guests and conferees, Representative Jim Ward and Iraida Orr, Kansas Legislative Research Department.

Presentation on:

Representative Jim Ward, District 86, Wichita, considers Medicaid expansion the most important health issue facing Kansas in the last 20 years. He reported an estimated 157,000 to 169,000 more Kansans would be eligible for health insurance under Medicaid expansion. Today, 52% of Kansans get health insurance through their employers, 12.5% do not have health insurance. Around 350,000 are uninsured, 44,000 are children and 182,000 are too rich for our Medicaid program or too poor for tax credits. To date, the State has lost around \$385,000,000 in health care dollars.

HB 2045 would expand Medicaid coverage to every adult earning less than 138% of the poverty level (\$23,310/year/family of three). In addition to providing healthcare for Kansas' most vulnerable citizens, Medicaid expansion would:

- bring around \$10.1 billion federal dollars to the State over the next 13 years
- add around 3,830 jobs across all industries by 2020
- save about \$321 million since Community Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol treatment and MediKan and Medically Needy for Families dollars would be covered by Medicaid,
- and replace Disproportionate Share Hospital money to treat patients without health insurance which expires this year.

Representative Ward observed the question about Medicaid expansion is "fundamentally a moral question." ([Attachment 1](#)) Following his remarks, Chairman Sloan and Representative Francis asked questions.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Vision 2020 at 9:00 am on Monday, February 02, 2015, 218-N of the Capitol.

Informational briefing:

Iraida Orr, Principal Research Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department, presented an overview of Medicaid expansion alternatives recently approved and those being actively discussed in other states .

States implementing Medicaid expansion alternatives include:

- Arkansas: first state to implement expansion via a premium assistance model for newly eligible adults
- Iowa: second state to implement expansion via a premium assistance model for newly eligible adults
- Michigan: third state to implement expansion does not use a premium assistance model
- New Hampshire: provides a mandatory Health Insurance Premium Payment Program
- Indiana: the current waiver expires in December, 2015, but has been amended and recently was approved; services are provided mainly through managed care organizations

Tennessee, Utah, and Wyoming are actively discussing Medicaid expansion alternatives. Tennessee's is a two year pilot program. Utah has released more details for a healthy Utah expansion. Wyoming's plan seems to be in limbo. ([Attachment 2](#)) Questions were asked, comments made, and discussions followed Mrs.Orr's presentation. Participants included Chairman Sloan and Representatives Francis, Curtis, O'Brien and Bollier.

Chairman Sloan again thanked Representative Ward for his testimony supporting Medicaid expansion and Iraida Orr for her extensive research and report on Medicaid expansion alternatives. The Chairman said an expansion bill draft should be available for the committee on Monday.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m. The next meeting will be February 4, 2015