

Testimony to be given by Taylor Porter M.D. on 2/11/15:

Madame chair and committee. Thank you for allowing me to address you today. My name is Taylor Porter, and I'm a psychiatrist, and medical director at Valeo Behavioral Health Care. I have great concern about the effects of SB 123. Speaking for all the medical staff at Valeo, and every psychiatric caregiver I've spoken with we strongly oppose SB 123. In a time of concern over the state budget I'm not sure how it makes sense to enact legislation that has shown in other states to actually cost more in the long run.

My concerns are about the patients. The people we see at Valeo are vulnerable. Psychiatric medications are not interchangeable within a class. Each of us is very unique and so is our brain chemistry. Anytime a patient is forced to have a medication change after they are on a working combination of medications this can lead to dire consequences. Every day we see patients who have suffered greatly when they are no longer able to afford, or flat out denied their medications due to insurance companies. The ones we see in clinic aren't the worst outcomes. These insurance medication denying plans may start out promising to help and protect patients, but end up being run by individuals with no experience with patient care, psychiatric, or otherwise. The decisions made by these med denying plans are getting increasingly bizarre and arbitrary. I can give examples if requested.

Currently Kansas Medicaid allows protection for our most vulnerable population and their medication. To remove this protection will ultimately be costly both in terms of tax dollars and human suffering.