



Kansas
Breastfeeding
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Brenda Bandy, Executive Director
Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition
Opponent Written Testimony for HB 2240
House Welfare Reform Committee

Dear Chair Averkamp and Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition in opposition to HB 2240, which requires legislative approval of any Medicaid state plan, state plan amendment, demonstration or waiver that expands coverage or increases cost to the state.

The Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition (KBC) protects, supports, and promotes breastfeeding to improve the health and well-being of Kansas mothers and babies. HB 2240, requiring legislative approval for any Medicaid state plan, state plan amendment, demonstration, or waiver that expands coverage or increases costs to the state can be harmful to breastfeeding families for a few key reasons:

1. **Financial Barriers:** If state plans are delayed or restricted by legislative approval, breastfeeding families may be forced to bear additional costs, such as for lactation consultants, pumps, or breastfeeding medications. Medicaid is critical in reducing these costs for low-income families, and any hindrance to expanding Medicaid services could disproportionately affect those families who rely on it.
2. **Potential for Political Interference:** Breastfeeding-related services could become politicized, depending on the priorities of state legislators. If lawmakers do not prioritize maternal and child health, or if they do not see breastfeeding as a key issue, it may result in inadequate coverage or cuts to necessary coverage. Political changes or shifts in priorities could thus undermine important breastfeeding initiatives.
3. **Reduced Flexibility to Address Evolving Breastfeeding Barriers:** Breastfeeding support programs need to be flexible and able to respond to emerging challenges and research. Kansas Medicaid policies for lactation support could be frozen at their current level without the ability to innovate and improve services. Investing in breastfeeding support reduces healthcare costs later for mothers and babies. Requiring legislative approval could prevent Medicaid from quickly adjusting lactation services to meet the evolving needs of breastfeeding families.

In essence, the requirement for legislative approval can delay or prevent crucial access to Medicaid benefits and services that support breastfeeding families, leading to negative impacts on maternal and child health outcomes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony to HB 2240. Please feel free to contact me at bbandy@ksbreastfeeding.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Brenda Bandy, IBCLC
Executive Director
Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition

Mission To improve the health and well-being of Kansans by working collaboratively to promote, protect and support breastfeeding.

Vision Breastfeeding is normal and supported throughout Kansas.