

**Testimony by Charlie Hunt with the Johnson County
Department of Health & Environment (JCDHE) to
House Committee on Welfare Reform
Written Opponent for HB 2240 – February 11, 2025**

Chairman Averkamp and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to House Bill 2240 which requires legislative approval for any 1115 or 1915 Medicaid waivers that expand coverage or increase cost to the state. JCDHE's mission is to promote and protect the health and environment for all who live, work and play in Johnson County

Section 1115 demonstrations and waiver authorities in section 1915 of the Social Security Act are vehicles states can use to test new or existing ways to deliver and pay for health care services in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) (State Waiver List, n.d.).

JCDHE serves community members who have benefited from Medicaid coverage due to 1115 waivers, which not only makes our county healthier, but provides the needed payment for those services. In the past 12 months, JCDHE has served over 1,800 Medicaid participants at more than 2,500 visits for services such as immunizations, prenatal care, and recommended reproductive health screenings.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) uses 1115 waivers to be responsive to the evolving healthcare needs of our state. HB 2240 would make it more difficult for KDHE to submit waivers to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in a timely manner which could result in costly delays.

As such, JCDHE asks that the committee not recommend HB 2240 favorably for passage.

Sincerely,

Charlie Hunt, Director
Johnson County Department of Health & Environment

