



Written Testimony in Opposition to HB2240

February 10, 2024

Chair Awerkamp, Vice Chair Rhiley, Ranking Minority Member Ousley, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to HB2240. My name is Dr. Dena Hubbard, a neonatologist and chair of the Public Policy Committee. I am here on behalf of the Kansas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (KAAP), representing over 400 pediatricians and residents serving Kansas children. Our mission is simple: ensuring that every Kansas child has the opportunity to grow up safe, healthy, and strong.

We share your commitment to fiscal responsibility and government accountability. However, HB2240 presents unintended consequences that could harm Kansas children and increase long-term costs to the state. By requiring legislative approval before any Medicaid state plan amendment or waiver can be submitted, this bill introduces unnecessary bureaucratic delays that could prevent timely improvements to children's healthcare access.

The proposed legislation removes state health agencies' ability to respond swiftly to changes in federal policy, address urgent healthcare needs, or implement cost-saving measures without waiting for the legislature to convene—delays that could hurt Kansas children. For example, what would happen if Kansas were to experience a pandemic or an outbreak of a high-cost disease? What about major natural disasters, like fires or floods? With this bill, Kansas would need to wait until the Legislative Session begins in January, regardless of when the disaster or situation occurred.

Children make up the largest group of Medicaid recipients in Kansas, and their access to healthcare should not be subject to unnecessary red tape. When we invest in children's health, we reduce costly emergency room visits, decrease dependency on government assistance in the future, and support strong, self-sufficient families - values that align with our shared commitment to strengthening Kansas communities.

We urge you to oppose this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions, and KAAP remains a resource for you.

Respectfully submitted,
Dena Hubbard, MD, FAAP
Chair, Public Policy Committee
Kansas Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics