

February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025

House Committee on Welfare Reform  
State Capitol  
300 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Topeka, KS 66612

**Re: Health Forward Foundation opposition to House Bill 2240 – requiring state agencies get approval from the legislature to apply for waivers from the federal government to expand or implement a safety net program.**

Chair Awerkamp and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Health Forward Foundation (Health Forward), I submit this written-only testimony in opposition to House Bill 2240. Health Forward works to support and build inclusive, powerful, and healthy communities characterized by racial equity and economically just systems. We oppose this legislation as it would undercut flexibility in policy implementation, as well as an affront prudent separation of powers between legislative and executive branches of government.

HB 2240 would drastically limit the ability of state agencies to be responsive to the needs of Kansans, as well as limit innovation and efforts to further effectuate the spirit of existing policies to improve health. A prime example of this is the 2023 state plan amendment that made community health worker (CHW) services reimbursable under Medicaid. CHWs are important members of care coordination teams who help patients navigate the health care system, keep appointments and prescriptions, and connect them to resources.

As an example, CHW services as a reimbursable expense result in cost savings and a [return on investment](#) of nearly \$2.50 for each dollar invested. Not only do CHW's save health systems money, they also help patients get healthier and play critical roles in providing services in [rural areas](#) facing extreme health care workforce shortages. Legislation like HB 2240 would make it so changes to increase healthcare access and improve health outcomes like these are far more difficult and tedious to achieve.

Additionally, HB 2240 is an affront to the separation of powers that should exist between the legislative and executive branches. Distinct roles between the different branches of government are good practice and lead to more thoughtful policymaking as it ensures balance between legislative policymaking aspirations and the practicalities of implementation through rules and regulations.

Health Forward asks legislators on this committee to vote no on HB 2240 as it will hamstring state agencies from engaging in policy work that helps Kansans. Please feel free to reach out to me at [nmadden@healthforward.org](mailto:nmadden@healthforward.org) if you have any questions or requests for additional information.

Respectfully,



**OUR  
PURPOSE**

*Every day we work to support and build inclusive, powerful, and healthy communities characterized by racial equity and economically just systems.*

Nathan J. Madden, Ph.D.  
Impact Strategist - Policy  
Health Forward Foundation

