



Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Ridge Rose, Manager of Government Relations - Children's Mercy

March 5, 2025

WRITTEN ONLY - Support for Increased Medicaid Reimbursement Rates

Dear Chairman Billinger, Vice Chair Claeys, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony on behalf of Children's Mercy. As a leading pediatric health care institution serving Kansas, we are dedicated to providing comprehensive and compassionate care to all children, regardless of their financial circumstances. Today, we want to address the critical need for increased Medicaid reimbursement rates in Kansas.

At Children's Mercy, nearly 50 percent of our patient population is covered by Medicaid. As a non-profit hospital, we reinvest our resources into patient care, research, and community health initiatives. Inadequate reimbursement rates directly affect patient care. They limit our ability to invest in advanced medical technologies, recruit and retain specialized healthcare professionals, and expand community outreach programs. We respectfully urge the committee to prioritize increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates to levels more competitive with neighboring states.

Currently, Kansas Medicaid reimbursement rates are notably lower than those in neighboring states. For instance, the reimbursement for an emergency room visit is \$215 in Kansas, compared to \$548 in Colorado, \$523 in Missouri, and \$609 in Nebraska. Similarly, a radiology procedure is reimbursed at \$38 in Kansas, whereas it is \$215 in Colorado, \$74 in Missouri, and \$125 in Nebraska. There are numerous other examples of the disparities that place Kansas healthcare providers at a disadvantage, affecting our ability to deliver the highest-quality care possible.

A proposed investment of \$20 million in State General Funds for outpatient Medicaid rate increases would draw down an additional \$30 million in federal funds, aligning Kansas more closely with regional standards.

Children's Mercy remains steadfast in our mission to improve the health and well-being of children. By addressing the current inadequacies in Medicaid reimbursement rates, the legislature can play a pivotal role in sustaining and enhancing the quality of pediatric health care services. We appreciate your attention to this critical issue and are hopeful for a favorable resolution that supports the health of our state's youngest and most vulnerable residents.

Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to the children of Kansas.

Ridge Rose

Manager of Government Relations

Children's Mercy

rrose@cmh.edu