



On behalf of the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved (KAMU), it is my pleasure to present written testimony on managed care to the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee.

KAMU has been the Primary Care Association of Kansas for 23 years. As the Primary Care Association, KAMU represents 40 primary care safety net clinics that all share the same mission of providing health care services without regard for the patients' ability to pay. KAMU and our members believe Kansas should be a state where all individuals have access to comprehensive, affordable and quality health care.

Members of the KAMU and Primary Care Safety Net clinic staff attended the Lt. Governor's Medicaid Forums in Topeka, Wichita, Dodge City and Kansas City. The process provided an opportunity for safety net clinics to provide input as well as learn and listen to the plans for Kansas Medicaid reform. We appreciate this opportunity to provide input into the process of reforming Medicaid in our state.

In large part KanCare, the recommended solution to support integrated, whole-person care, supports the mission and purpose of our member clinics. These clinics are committed to providing person-centered care, integrating various health services such as mental health and primary medical care, and helping their patients access additional needed services for optimum health of the whole person. They are also familiar with outcomes-based approaches to health care delivery, with our federally-funded Community Health Centers (also known as Federally Qualified Health Centers) required to report patient outcomes annually to the Bureau of Primary Health Care. Many of the requirements outlined in the RFP for the managed care organizations to respond to align nicely with the approach our clinics have used in providing patient care for many years.

Certainly it is important to control costs and improve patient outcomes, which KanCare proposes to do. It is also critical that managed care is implemented by strong managed care organizations, and that the process be monitored to ensure that this new approach to Medicaid moves forward in the best interest of the people of Kansas.

Thank you for your interest.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

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