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To: Kansas House Appropriations Committee

From: Karen Endicott-Coyan - Advocacy Coordinator
Mercy Hospitals – Columbus, Fort Scott and Independence

Date: February 22, 2013

RE: House Concurrent Resolution No. 5013

Mercy Hospitals appreciate the opportunity to express our concerns regarding House Concurrent Resolution No. 5013, which would prohibit the State of Kansas from expanding Medicaid services.

The expansion of Medicaid utilizing the new KanCare program would improve health outcomes for the uninsured by providing a method for continuity of care. Hospital emergency rooms are often utilized for primary care services by the uninsured. We believe expanding Medicaid would provide an opportunity to build upon the recently implemented KanCare program.

Mercy Health operates three (3) hospitals, three (3) rural health clinics and has over three hundred (300) credentialed practitioners. Our locations employ approximately 900 Kansas taxpayers. Kansas hospitals support both the state and local economy. Mercy Hospital, Fort Scott is the largest employer in Bourbon County.

Recent Federal legislation imposes reductions in payments for our facilities which are projected at over \$2.7M per year. Expansion of Medicaid services would provide an off-set for a portion of these reductions. Without the expansion of Medicaid it will be necessary to thoroughly review current services that generate a negative financial result. The elimination of these services will result in reduced access for some of our patients.

We struggle to understand the apparent need for urgency in the enactment of this resolution. We respectfully request additional analysis of the financial impact of Medicaid expansion on the Kansas economy. Please thoughtfully consider the positive emotional, physical and financial impact Medicaid expansion will provide the projected 122,000 uninsured Kansans.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.