



# Kansas Association of Health Plans

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**HB 2317**  
**Before the House Insurance Committee**  
**Marlee Carpenter, Executive Director**

Chairman Shultz and members of the Committee;

The Kansas Association of Health Plans (KAHP) is a nonprofit association dedicated to providing the public information on managed care health plans. Members of the KAHP are Kansas licensed health maintenance organizations and preferred provider organizations.

KAHP is here today in opposition to HB 2317. Attached to my testimony are frequently asked questions regarding new mandates in general and the autism mandate specifically, and how they relate to federal health reform and the essential benefits package. The bottom line is that if this mandate is enacted, the state would have to pay for its benefits until the essential benefits are reconsidered, which will be 2016. We do not have a fiscal note for the state.

In addition, KAHP believes that HB 2317 will broaden the definition of insurance by requiring reimbursement of educational programs and will increase the costs of health insurance so that it is out of reach for many Kansans. Kansas health insurance carriers already provide coverage for “medically” necessary services to children diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. These services include initial screenings for autism, occupational therapy, speech therapy, physical therapy, and coverage for common medical issues suffered by individuals with autism. In addition, state and federal mental health parity laws already require that these conditions be covered the same as any other medical condition.

Finally, this mandate does increase costs and will grow if enacted in the state. The Missouri Department of Insurance’s new report shows that health insurance payments for autism-related treatments in Missouri rose by more than 50% in 2012. Since the autism mandate took effect in January 2011, overall claim costs incurred for autism services rose from \$4.3 million to \$6.6 million, of which \$3 million was directed to ABA services. Between 2011 and 2012, the number of individuals who held Missouri licenses as a behavioral analyst grew by 44%.

KAHP members urge you to carefully consider the costs of this mandate to the state as well as the impact a new mandate will have in light of federal health reform. Thank you for your time and I will be happy to answer any questions.