



TO: House Health and Human Services Committee

FROM: Greg Kindle, Interim President

DATE: March 18, 2015

RE: House Bill 2319 – Support

On behalf of the Kansas City Kansas Area Chamber of Commerce, please accept this letter in support of House Bill 2319, which requires the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to develop a federal Medicaid waiver for a budget-neutral managed care program known as KanCare 2.0.

This issue is particularly important to Wyandotte County as we have 5 percent of the State's population but 10 percent of the uninsured. This places a heavy burden on our hospitals and community social service agencies.

Wyandotte County has seen significant economic growth the last several years which is a great story. Unfortunately, our community continues to lag at the bottom when it comes to healthy indicators. To be truly successful we need a healthy workforce to continue being an economic engine in Kansas.

Maintaining Wyandotte County as an economic engine is also tied to having financially sustainable hospitals. Here in Wyandotte County, we have two hospitals – Providence Medical Center and the University of Kansas Hospital – that employ nearly 11,000 people, contribute to our tax base, and make ongoing major investments. By not expanding KanCare, pressure is put on our hospitals that we believe will not lead to positive outcomes and will hurt economic growth.

We strongly encourage you to support KanCare 2.0 as we think it provides access to health care coverage options for newly eligible individuals while employing personal responsibility through cost sharing and rewarding healthy outcomes and responsible health choices. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Greg Kindle

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gregory S. Kindle".

Interim President