



TO: House Health and Human Services Committee

FROM: Name, Title

DATE: March 18, 2015

RE: House Bill 2319 – Support

On behalf of the Pittsburg Area Chamber of Commerce and the more than 500 businesses and organizations we represent, I am pleased to provide a letter of support for 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.

KanCare 2.0 would provide 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.

Survival of our state's rural hospitals and medical clinics is of the utmost importance to the chamber and the Pittsburg area business community. With our close proximity to hospitals in Joplin, located just 30 miles away, it's imperative that we ensure our Southeast Kansas hospitals and providers can remain competitive with their Missouri counterparts. It is for this reason that the Pittsburg Area Chamber board of directors made the passage of KanCare 2.0 one of our four legislative priorities for this session.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our support for House Bill 2319.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Blake Benson".

Blake Benson, CCE
President
Pittsburg Area Chamber of Commerce