

TO: House Health and Human Services Committee

FROM: Eric Burks, President

DATE: March 18, 2015

RE: House Bill 2319 – Support

On behalf of NCK Tech, I am pleased to provide a letter of support for House Bill 2319 in its current form, which requires the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to develop a federal Medicaid waiver for a budget-neutral managed care program commonly referred to as KanCare 2.0.

In north central Kansas there are three staple industries: agriculture, education, and healthcare. All three are interconnected and dependent upon one another. Obviously many of the lives and jobs impacted by KanCare are directly associated to the medical field, but almost half would be in other sectors. The funding directly received by our local healthcare providers, positively multiplies as it turns over in our communities and region. The loss of those dollars has an equally negative effect.

NCK Tech relies heavily on strong area hospitals to provide quality healthcare for our 115 employees and 1,149 students. We also depend on partnerships with these facilities to provide clinical sites for training over 200 future nurses, nurse aides, and pharmacy technicians annually. It is imperative for our healthcare partners to have access to the funding necessary to maintain high quality medical services and to support these cooperative and mutually beneficial training programs. KanCare directly affords patient services for low-income uninsured Kansans, but it also indirectly provides students with learning opportunities crucial for their training experience.

Data from a study done by George Washington University shows us that the expansion of KanCare could infuse \$2.2B into Kansas' economy in the next four years, while at the same time netting a savings of \$35.7M. As our state struggles to stabilize and improve its fiscal position, I'm concerned about refusing to accept Federal dollars that could cut costs for the state, create jobs to stimulate additional growth for Kansas' economy, and support critical healthcare services and training opportunities for our citizens.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.



Eric Burks, President

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