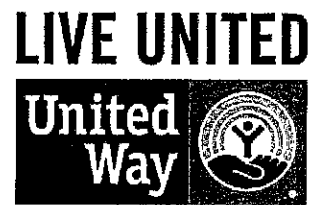


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March 13, 2015

To: HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE TESTIMONY

Re: Support for KanCare Expansion

From: Brent Stewart, President and CEO

The United Way of Greater Kansas City (UWGKC) thanks you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Medicaid expansion.

UWGKC urges the Kansas legislature to improve health access for the low-income working poor and their families through the expansion of Medicaid in Kansas. The expansion of Medicaid would allow Kansas residents to access more appropriate health care to meet their needs, rather than costly methods such as emergency room visits or waiting to seek help for serious health problems made worse by lack of early treatment. Medicaid expansion will also result in eligibility for mental health and substance abuse treatment.

Medicaid expansion is good not only for the estimated 169,000 Kansans who would be eligible for Medicaid by 2022, but also for the economic well-being of the state. The Kansas Hospital Association estimates that expansion would bring in \$800 million in federal dollars per year for 2015 and 2016, save \$1 billion in the next five years through efficiencies in care and administration of KanCare and bring 4,000 new jobs by 2020 to the state.

The Kansas Institute of Health has estimated that over a span of 10 years, expansion will cost Kansas \$525 million but over the same time frame, expansion would bring in an additional \$5.3 billion to Kansas in federal funding. In an independent analysis of costs to states that have expanded Medicaid, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Urban Institute concluded that in all cases both state savings and new revenue, as a result of expansion, far exceeded the increased Medicaid costs to the state.

The United Way of Greater Kansas City urges the Kansas legislature to support expansion of Medicaid for the good of all of citizens of the state. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.