

Kansas Medicaid Expansion Testimony
From Randy Conyers, Author of *Mott's Mind*
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Mr. Chairman and Committee Members;

I have much gratitude for the committee allowing me to testify in writing, regarding the acceptance of Medicaid Expansion in the great state of Kansas. I want to thank Governor Brownback for affirming his position on the matter and to Lt. Governor Colyer for teaching the freshman legislators about Medicaid expansion. I am confident this committee and the legislative branch understand the situation that stands before you.

I would like to bring to your attention that expanding Medicaid in Kansas benefits people like myself, a person with a severe mental illness diagnosis who has lost everything and, due to a crisis that involved an accident, became eligible for Medicaid services. I am certain the members of this committee would not want to find themselves, being successful in their chosen career, to succumb to such a lifestyle. I testify to you that it does happen. Medicaid expansion provides for coverage for mental health services, both inpatient and out, it also gives stakeholders access to a primary care doctor as well as specialty care to improve their physical health status as well.

I am in favor of Medicaid Expansion and the negotiations that stand before the legislature and the Governor.

Medicaid Expansion includes the formula for compensating facility and professional providers for their services. Not only does it help the stakeholder, it financially helps the hospitals, doctors, therapists and their staff to keep their doors open.

I would like to quote Henry Ford as it is relevant to this hearing, *"Any customer can have a car painted any colour that he wants so long as it is black."* I do not find this quote humorous. I find it to be the same paradigm the Kansas legislature finds itself to be in. You can't expect Mr. Ford to accept an order in green because a legislative body deemed it to be so. The ground rules were set in stone, you get black.

The same scenario exists with Governor Brownback. It needs to be taken seriously. In my interpretation of what Governor Brownback is saying, it is his intent to only approve Medicaid expansion if the federal government remains to compensate Kansas providers in full. It is my testimony, my belief, the Governor realizes there is a cost share to the program. It is my belief the Lt. Governor, who facilitated the legislative training, has reinforced the upcoming cost-share and the Governor's ground rules.

My testimony to this committee is not to be an opinioned editorial. All other statements made in reference to the above paragraph would be political in nature. For such, I would recommend reading the article published by the Topeka Capital Journal on 12/08/2011. <http://cjonline.com/opinion/2011-12-08/letter-fed-contracts-boeing-critical#.TwLB9FawV7c>

Thank you.