

Testimony in support of HB 2319

Committee on Health and Human Services

March 18, 2015

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, I appreciate you allowing me to provide testimony in support of HB 2319. My name is Gloria Packet and I am 64 years old. I currently only receive Medicare because I was dropped from Medicaid two years ago. My income is my social security check of \$1002 a month. My social security check went up \$17 and that is why I was kicked off of Medicaid. I had to discontinue my therapy sessions for depression because I can't pay out of pocket although Kanza offered payment plans, I still can't continue to afford it. I have a med plan through Aetna which is low copay but not all of my medications are covered. I take a daily med and other as needed medications. I had nerve damage from a previous work injury and also depression. Two years ago when I had to have heart surgery my Medicaid was taken away at the same time and I am still paying for my medical bill. I have also had bladder surgery that made me worse so now I am reduced to pads and paper panties that are not covered.

I am on a strict income and cannot afford to pay for my medications on my own that Medicare doesn't cover. Right now I would have no hot water or top teeth, if a friend hadn't loaned me money. I get \$16 a month for food stamps helps me to cover cost for my life line I would not want to lose, which I am thankful to have but that still doesn't help me when I have to cover other expenses.

Please expand Medicaid in Kansas to help us get insurance and have our medications covered so we can be healthy Kansans! Thank you for taking the time to listen to my story.

Gloria Packet

Fairview, Kansas

785-467-3055