House Health and Human Services Committee

Testimony in support of HB 2319

March 18, 2015

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, I strongly support the Medicaid Expansion discussion to allow those Kansans caught in the GAP, more than 100000 I am told who cannot qualify for help with Medical coverage under the Affordable Care Act or for help under the current KanCare arrangement. I work with seniors as an advisor and know this expansion will greatly help the rural hospitals who are suffering severe financial distress because the Hospital Lobby supported Obamacare believing they could accept the reallocations in funding because they would get it back when more walk in emergency folks are insured. But without the Medicaid Expansion, they will continue to bear the brunt of the cost and possibly go broke as a result which harms rural Kansans.

Larry Weigel 1809 Kingwood Dr. Manhattan, Ks 66502 785-539-7976

<u>larryweigel@hotmail.com</u>