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# HAYSMED

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**TO:** House Health and Human Services Committee

**FROM:** Shae Veach, Vice President Regional Operations

**DATE:** March 11, 2015

**RE:** House Bill 2319 – Support

On behalf of Hays Medical Center, I am pleased to provide a letter of support for House Bill 2319, which requires the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to develop a federal Medicaid waiver for a budget-neutral managed care program known as KanCare 2.0. KanCare 2.0 would provide access to healthcare coverage options for newly eligible individuals while employing personal responsibility through cost sharing and rewarding healthy outcomes and responsible health choices.

The KanCare 2.0 expansion is very important to the continued success of Hays Medical Center and Ellis County along with the Northwest Kansas Hospitals within this region. As in most communities HaysMed is the largest employer in the county with 1,400 associates and plays a significant role in the overall economic impact of Ellis County as well as Northwest Kansas. The State of Kansas lack of expanding KanCare has cost HaysMed \$(3,162,300) on an annual basis. Those dollars equate to jobs and have both a direct and indirect impact on the local economy based on sales, wages and employment generated by business activity. With the expansion of KanCare it would create a \$5,701,168 positive impact or a \$2,538,868 net gain. Those are true dollars that directly impacts tax revenues, retail sales, and most importantly provides care for the population that so desperately needs it.

It is vitally important to Kansas Hospitals and those individuals that fall below the 138 percent Federal Poverty level that a “Kansas-based” solution is reached now. This topic has been one of great discussion for the last few years, but with declining reimbursements, hospital closures, and very uncertain times for hospitals now is the time to lend your support to House Bill 2319.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Shae Veach  
VP Regional Operations