



2707 E 21st Street
Wichita, KS 67214

(P) 316.691.0249
(F) 316.691.9875

HealthCoreClinic.org

**Testimony to Support HB 2319
March 18, 2015
Health & Human Services Committee**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee,

Please accept this written testimony in support of House Bill 2319, also known as the "KanCare 2.0 Bill". I am passionate about this piece of legislation because it will positively impact the lives of many people but especially young children that are "*aging off*" the current Medicaid system.

Last year, I lost my 21 year old nephew that was diagnosed at age 6 with juvenile diabetes. When he turned 20, he no longer qualified for Medicaid. One year later, he died while attending Cowley County Community College alone in his apartment from complications associated with diabetes. Last year, another nephew turned 21 and was diagnosed with HIV while at Dodge City Community College. Uninsured and desperately trying to navigate the complicated medical system, he has given up hope. Every year for the next 5 years, I will have a niece or nephew that will "*age off*" of Medicaid and will depend on the new health insurance system to maintain medical coverage. Most are planning on attending college and are working citizens in the State of Kansas. Their respective parents work as well but in jobs that will not support purchasing family health insurance therefore they will not be able to enjoy the privilege of staying on their parents' insurance until they are 26 years of age.

My family is not alone! There are many families like mine that don't realize that their children will lose their health insurance and will not be able to qualify for insurance on the marketplace without the State of Kansas expanding Medicaid. There are many young men and women that are athletes graduating from high school and have dreams of playing college level sports but will lose their health insurance and thus the ability to continue to play sports in the State of Kansas.

As the CEO of a health center, the clinic will have fifty-four (54) children that will unknowingly "*age off*" of Medicaid in 2015 with very few options for continued medical coverage. 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. Furthermore, this legislation supports decreasing health disparities and improving the lives of young Kansans.

HealthCore Clinic, Inc. strongly supports House Bill 2319! Please feel free to contact me if you should have any additional questions or concerns. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Teresa Lovelady, MBA, MSW
President & CEO