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TO: House Health and Human Services Committee

From: John Moore, CEO of Hiawatha Community Hospital

Date: March 18, 2015

RE: House Bill 2319 – Support

On behalf of Hiawatha Community Hospital, 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 health outcomes and responsible health choices.

Hiawatha Community Hospital employs 250 in our community and is the largest employer with an annual payroll of \$10,615,505 to the surrounding community. Needless to say we are an integral part of the economic engine of this community. Our bad debt and charity care totals over one million dollars every year. Expanding Medicaid would give those individuals coverage and keep them off that bad debt or charity care list which in turn would improve our bottom line. The Affordable Care Act has many provisions, but one of those includes cutting payments to all hospitals to help fund the expansion of Medicaid so all would be covered. Since Kansas has not decided to expand Medicaid our hospital will be funding Medicaid expansion in other states. So in turn our hospital will suffer and those that do not qualify for the exchanges will be denied coverage because they live in Kansas. I cannot move my hospital but workers can leave Kansas for states with better benefits. Please evaluate and support the bill as I believe it will benefit all citizens in Kansas by keeping our hospitals solvent and also providing better access to care for the working poor.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.