



Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals

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March 18, 2015

House Health and Human Services Committee

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2319

Thank you Chairman Hawkins and Members of the Committee,

I am Kim Brown, President of the Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals (KAAP) and Vice President for Marketing and Development with Mirror, Inc. KAAP is the state's only professional association devoted solely to representing substance use disorder treatment and prevention programs in Kansas. Our membership from across the state of Kansas includes for profit and not-for-profit programs, local government agencies, some community mental health centers, and individuals in private practice.

KAAP supports House Bill 2319 which will allow the Governor to pursue Medicaid expansion and begin negotiations with CMS. Further the bill requires the Department of Health and Environment to begin producing a Medicaid waiver for submission to CMS to expand Medicaid eligibility. For individuals with substance abuse needs, the expansion of Medicaid will greatly increase the availability of services for individuals who are currently not eligible but do not have the resources to purchase private insurance.

Federal health reform legislation passed in 2010 changed the nature of substance use disorder treatment and prevention in Kansas. Kansas must ensure substance use disorder treatment issues are fully integrated in Kansas health policy. Extension of access to Medicaid is the right public policy choice. Extension of access will provide services for more Kansans in need, increase employment, and result in reduced costs to hospitals, jails, and prisons, all with the limited cost to the state.

I would be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.