

House Committee on Health and Human Services

March 18, 2015

Dear Chairman Hawkins,

I am pleased to offer a letter of support for Medicaid expansion in Kansas. Saint Luke's Cushing Hospital is a faith-based, not-for-profit, locally owned community hospital in Leavenworth, KS with 54 beds and 233 employees. Since our inception in 1894 we have strived to provide the highest quality of healthcare available and our commitment to quality healthcare includes serving those without access to health insurance.

Those Kansans without access to health insurance often go without much needed medical care and such decisions can have a significant financial impact not only on the uninsured but also on the medical provider. Last year Saint Luke's Cushing Hospital contributed nearly \$5.1 million in charity care. Saint Luke's Cushing Hospital supports any effort that would reduce the number of uninsured in Kansas. This is an excellent opportunity to craft a Kansas solution that would allow the more than one hundred and forty-four thousand (144,000) Kansas citizens without health insurance the opportunity to obtain low-cost health coverage. Additionally, Medicaid expansion would add an additional \$1.5 million to the Leavenworth County economy through additional jobs and economic activity.

We look forward to working with you on this important issue. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Adele Ducharme, R.N., M.S.N., M.B.A., & FACHE
Chief Executive Officer