

TO: House Health and Human Services Committee

FROM: Victor Hawkins, Strategy & Business Development

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DATE: March 18, 2015

RE: House Bill 2319 – Support

On behalf of St. Catherine 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 healthy outcomes and responsible health choices.

St. Catherine Hospital is an economic engine for southwest Kansas. We employ 625 people and making us the second largest private employer in Finney County with an annual payroll of 38.8 million. Annually, we treat 3,660 inpatients, 55,000 outpatients, and 120,000 clinic visits per year.

St. Catherine Hospital and the communities we serve will benefit from KanCare Expansion because uncompensated care is rising at an alarming rate:

- 10% of St. Catherine Hospital patients are uninsured and this number increases every year. This trend is forcing St. Catherine Hospital to delay the hiring of key support staff and to combine director responsibilities in several areas to reduce expense through eliminated positions.
- Uncompensated care lowers the hospital's reimbursement and increases capital constraints making it increasingly difficult to maintain patient access to the latest medical technologies.

Please support the KanCare expansion because these dollars are needed to care for Kansans state-wide.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.