



March 12, 2015

TO: House Health and Human Services Committee

FROM: Dennis Shelby, CEO *DRS*

SUBJECT: House Bill 2319 – Support

On behalf of Wilson Medical Center, 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.

Wilson Medical Center (WMC), a critical access hospital, is the initial point of healthcare for the community. We offer many outpatient services so residents do not have to travel 50 or 100 miles for care. Having a hospital in the community also allows Neodesha to retain and attract businesses and industries. WMC provides 24-hour emergency services and quality healthcare to industry employees, Neodesha residents, and the surrounding communities. In 2014, we had 2,254 emergency visits and 6,822 outpatient exams.

WMC has a huge financial impact on the local economy, as well. The hospital has a staff of 146 with the average income of employees being \$4,070 a month. The average income in Wilson County, per the Bureau of Labor Statistics, is \$3,605. We are the second largest employer in Neodesha.

The value of KanCare 2.0 to Wilson Medical Center and our community would be very positive. Currently, the amount of uncompensated care each year for our hospital is \$504,544. With expansion of KanCare, our uncompensated care would be \$336,363, saving the hospital \$168,000 yearly.

Should you require any additional information, do not hesitate to contact me.

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