



# Health Care Foundation

OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

## Testimony to The House Health & Human Services Committee In Support of HB 2319

From Bridget McCandless MD, President/CEO

The Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City was created in 2003 and seeks to provide leadership, advocacy and resources to eliminate barriers and promote quality health for uninsured and underserved. Our annual grantmaking focuses on safety net, mental health, and healthy lifestyles in six counties in the Kansas City-area, including Allen, Johnson, and Wyandotte Counties in Kansas.

- Since inception, HCF has disbursed nearly \$200 million in grant funds. While seemingly substantial, this figure pales in comparison to the level of need in our service area. In 2014, area nonprofits organizations requested three times as many dollars than was available for grants.
- Lack of health insurance is a serious detriment to overall wellbeing – those who are uninsured are more likely to delay necessary care, forego preventive care, receive late-stage diagnoses, and have unmanaged chronic illnesses.
- More than 250,000 residents of the Kansas City region are currently uninsured, 75,000 of them in Johnson and Wyandotte Counties alone. Central to HCF's mission is expanding access to quality, affordable health insurance for these residents.
- Of the uninsured in Kansas, **84% are in families with at least one working adult.**
- The Kansas Medicaid program offers no coverage to childless adults and very low income eligibility limits for parents (33% FPL in Kansas). To put this into context, 33% FPL for a family of four is \$8,000 annually.
- Medicaid expansion stands to bring **\$128 million into Allen, Johnson, and Wyandotte Counties** each year to provide health care to those who were previously uninsured.
- As such, the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City supports HB2319 and any other measures that will improve health care access for uninsured Kansans.