

THE CIVIC COUNCIL OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

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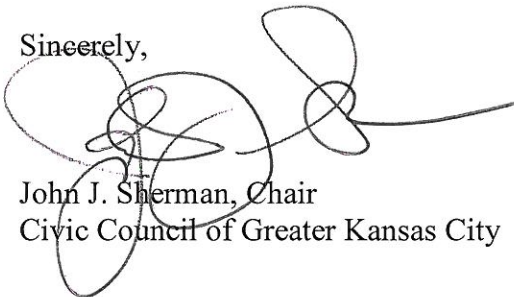
Testimony in Support of HB2319
House Health and Human Services Committee

I am writing on behalf of the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City to express our appreciation for your consideration of HB2319. The Civic Council is a membership organization of chief executive officers of the larger companies in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Many of our members live and have companies in Kansas.

We understand the state is faced with revenue shortfalls. A healthy workforce, however, is a prerequisite for economic success. We believe the expansion of KanCare is an economic development issue that affects not only the business community but also the state. Individuals who are ill and unable to obtain treatment often cannot work, or work productively, resulting in further losses to the state in taxes it foregoes and other services that must be subsidized.

We encourage you to give favorable consideration to HB2319, making it possible to take a first step toward developing a uniquely Kansas approach to meeting the health care needs of its citizens. Delays only increase the numbers of Kansans who will face lifelong difficulties because they could not obtain care now, and will further deteriorate their ability to work, care for their families and pay the taxes the state needs.

Sincerely,



John J. Sherman, Chair
Civic Council of Greater Kansas City