



TO: House Health and Human Services Committee

FROM: Steve Dyer, President

DATE: March 18, 2015

RE: House Bill 2319 – Support

On behalf of Garden City Area Chamber of Commerce, 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 health care 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 a regional medical facility for western Kansas serving over 200,000 in population and provides top quality care which is vital for our area of the state. Our population relies heavily on the care of St. Catherine and in many cases needs financial assistance KanCare would provide.

St. Catherine has both a direct and indirect economic impact based on sales, wages and employment generated by business activity. If they experience losses, so does the community they serve. The impacts reflect both income and retail sales as well as additional county sales tax revenues.

If KanCare was not expanded it could be crippling to our economic development and growth efforts in Kansas. Expanded KanCare would create jobs and increase salaries. Every additional dollar earned would roll over in our community which benefits everyone.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.