



Hutchinson/Reno County Chamber of Commerce

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TO: House Health and Human Services Committee

FROM: Jason M. Ball, President & CEO of the Hutchinson/Reno County Chamber of Commerce

DATE: March 18, 2015

RE: House Bill 2319 – Support

On behalf of the Hutchinson/Reno County 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.

Our Chamber membership includes more than 770 businesses in Reno County, representing more than 1200 individual members that provide jobs to more than 17,000 employees.

In Hutchinson and Reno County, the health care sector is the largest private sector industry by number of employees. These businesses employ more than 2,500 jobs for our local workforce. Health care providers and hospitals are critical to this community's economic health and development.

The Chamber recognizes that those who lack adequate health care insurance impose significant economic costs on health care providers. Conditions such as this make it more difficult for this critical employment sector to grow, and it puts at risk many of the jobs they now provide this community. Conversely, expansion of KanCare in Kansas helps to ensure the future security of these jobs, and improve access to health care services for those most in need.

The Chamber therefore supports expansion of the State's Medicaid program to reduce the numbers of the uninsured and ensure the viability of health care providers who serve the uninsured and underinsured.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason M. Ball'.

Jason M. Ball

Jason M. Ball, CEcD, MBA

President & CEO

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