



House Health and Human Services  
Committee:

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**HB 2064: KanCare Bridge to a Healthy  
Kansas Program**

Written-Only Testimony by:

Sandra Kimmons

Director of Economic and Employment Services

Kansas Department for Children and Families

Andrew Wiens, Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs  
DCF Administration Building, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
(785) 291-3629 [andrew.wiens@ks.gov](mailto:andrew.wiens@ks.gov)  
[www.dcf.ks.gov](http://www.dcf.ks.gov)

**Testimony of:**

Sandra Kimmons, Director of Economic & Employment Services  
Kansas Department for Children and Families

**Testimony on:**

HB 2064, KanCare Bridge to a Healthy Kansas Program

**Chairman Hawkins, Vice Chair Concannon, Ranking Member Wilson and  
Members of the Committee:**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral testimony regarding HB 2064.

HB 2064 states that the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) shall refer all non-disabled adults in the KanCare Bridge to a Healthy Kansas program, who are unemployed or working fewer than 20 hours a week, as a condition of the program, to the State's existing workforce training programs and work search resources. One of the programs listed is the Generating Opportunities to Attain Lifelong Success (GOALS) program, administered by the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF).

GOALS is a three-year, \$13.5 million pilot project designed to set eligible Kansans receiving food assistance on a path to successful careers that pay living wages, offer advancement opportunities and restore their sense of value to themselves, their families and communities. GOALS is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) as one of 10 pilot projects in the nation designed to develop and test innovative employment and training strategies.

Over the three-year pilot, approximately 4,000 food assistance recipients will take part in the pilot. Two-thousand recipients will be randomly assigned to receive intensive, individualized services in 36 counties (two urban and two rural areas of the state). An additional 2,000 food assistance recipients will be part of a control group who will receive basic Employment & Training (E&T) services in 27 of those counties. Since the pilot began Jan. 25, 2016, 2,133 food assistance recipients have been randomly assigned to date. Jan.25, 2018 will be the last day that random assignments will be made. While we feel confident that our GOALS pilot will be successful, there is absolutely no indication that the program will extend beyond the grant award ending Jan. 25, 2019. Any referrals made to the GOALS program after that time would involve a significant fiscal impact, as the program would need to be funded with State General Funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to present neutral testimony and to provide you with additional information as you discuss HB 2064.