



**KANSAS ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS**
CARING FOR KANSANS

7570 W 21st ST N
Bldg. 1026 Suite C 104
Wichita KS 67205
316.721.9005
Fax 316.721.9044
kafp@kafponline.org
www.kafponline.org

Testimony: HB2169 – KanCare Reform
House Health & Human Services Committee
February 14, 2017

By: Carolyn Gaughan, CAE, Executive Vice President
(Written only)

Chairman Hawkins and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on HB 2169, on behalf of the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians (KAFP). Our organization represents over 1,660 active, resident, student and life members across the state. The mission of KAFP is to promote access to, and excellence in, health care for all Kansans through education and advocacy for family physicians and their patients. Quality health care and health outcomes for our patients guide our public policy work. As family physicians, we see people of all ages, both men and women, and we work with almost every type of ailment and illness that afflict our patients.

KAFP supports HB 2169, regarding KanCare process and contract requirements. As mentioned above, our mission is to provide quality health care for ALL Kansans. This has proven more challenging in the current KanCare environment. This bill is designed to address a number of the issues raised by providers for several months, and most recently mentioned in the CMS letters regarding the waiver extension request.

This reform is much-needed from the provider point of view, as well as from a patient point of view. The bill outlines important system changes such as: a uniform process and forms for credentialing and re-credentialing healthcare providers; the process and limit for prior authorization for healthcare services and prescriptions; the process for internal claims grievances; the cap on administrative spending; and the appeal processes and timelines including independent third-party review. These are all critical provisions.

Thank you again for the opportunity to enter this written testimony. Please don't hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

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