

Opponent Testimony on HB 2065

House Committee on Health and Human Services

March 16, 2017

Good afternoon Chairman Hawkins and members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Denise Cyzman, and I am honored to represent the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved (KAMU), the Primary Care Association of Kansas. Thank you for allowing us to provide written testimony in opposition to HB 2065.

KAMU's membership is diverse. Of its 50 members, we represent 44 primary care safety net clinics, all providing services regardless of the patient's ability to pay. KAMU and its members believe Kansas should be a state where all individuals have access to comprehensive, affordable, and quality health care. Collectively, these clinics make up the state primary care safety net system.

The preservation of the safety net health care delivery system was put at risk when the 4% provider cut was enacted in July. While the federally qualified health center and rural health clinic encounter rates were exempted, the services they provide that are fee for service were not spared the cut. And, KanCare payments to our non-FQHC clinics were effected in exactly the same way that other providers experienced the cut.

It has been suggested through this legislation that a possible solution to the 4% provider cut would be to impose an assessment on hospitals providing inpatient services. This money would be expended for the purpose of restoring the 4% Medicaid cut. Let's be clear, this assessment, is a tax on hospitals. This tax will be a counterproductive tax on health care in Kansas. A new hospital tax will increase Kansas' health care costs, reduce access to care, hurt our state and local economies, and will be counter to our goal of improving the health and wellness of our citizens.

We stand ready to partner in solutions to restore the 4% provider cut and create a system of health care delivery that is more accessible, affordable, and sustainable for all Kansans, but HB 2065 is not the solution.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify against HB 2065.