



1266 SW Topeka Blvd. • Topeka, KS 66612
(785) 232-0225 • (785) 232-6151 (FAX)
www.kansasoptometric.org

February 6, 2017

TO: Senate Ways and Means Committee
FROM: Todd Fleischer, CAE
Executive Director
RE: Testimony in Support of SB 94

My name is Todd Fleischer. I am the Executive Director of the Kansas Optometric Association, which represents optometrists across Kansas. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 94.

As primary eye care providers, optometrists not only diagnose and treat vision problems and eye disease, but also detect a multitude of other health issues, ranging from high blood pressure and diabetes to glaucoma and other significant health issues. Early detection and treatment can have significant impact on a patient's overall health and result in considerable cost savings.

Because of this, we have worked through the years to encourage our members to participate in the Medicaid program, to ensure that patients had access to appropriate eye care. While the majority of our members, like most health care providers, have heeded our request and have been long-time participants in the program, it is generally because they believe it is the right thing to do for their patients, rather than any financial gain, due to challenges with reimbursement and other issues. The reimbursement cuts initiated last year added to those challenges. Our fear is without a fix to restore those cuts, some providers, including some of our members, may opt to discontinue their participation in KanCare, reducing access to care for patients.

SB 94 seems to offer a reasonable means to restore reimbursement levels without a significant impact on the state budget, and we would encourage your support of this bill.

Thank you for your time and commitment to the state of Kansas.