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Partners in America's Poverty Fighting Network

**Scott Anglemyer, Executive Director
Kansas Association of Community Action Programs (KACAP)
Testimony before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
January 30, 2018**

Chairperson McGinn and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 300, requiring prior legislative authorization before the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) submits any application to the federal government to make substantial change in Medicaid services.

KACAP has opposed much of what has been proposed in the KanCare 2.0 waiver request submitted to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). In particular, our opposition has focused on the imposition of strict work requirements and time limits on receipt of KanCare for non-disabled individuals. In previous testimony and in public comments submitted to CMS, we have noted that application of these restrictions has not resulted in increased employment when applied to programs such as the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). Just last week, an analysis by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities of a database of Kansas families exiting TANF from 2011 to 2016 showed almost no increase in employment rates or income resulting from the same restrictions that KDHE and KDADS have proposed for KanCare eligibility. Additionally, we have noted that by restricting access to important income and health services, this approach is inconsistent with the effort to address the social determinants of health encouraged by CMS. We therefore applaud any effort to stop the state's request to apply these restrictions to the KanCare program.

However, we are submitting neutral testimony because we do have concerns about the wisdom of legislative action to stop this request. Legislative action brings with it the possibility of inserting partisan politics into what traditionally has been viewed as an administrative function of the executive branch. We have concerns that SB 300 would create a precedent that could introduce more partisanship into the administration of programs, making programs more difficult to manage, slowing down policy changes and routine processes, to the ultimate detriment of the Kansans who rely on those services. So while we oppose the changes proposed in the state's KanCare 2.0 waiver request, we urge the Legislature to think carefully about the unintended consequences of this bill, and to proceed with extreme caution.

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