



To: Chairman Suellentrop, Members, Public Health and Welfare Committee
From: Rachel Monger, Vice President of Government Affairs
Date: January 23, 2020

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 252

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Members of the Committee. I am Rachel Monger, Vice President of Government Affairs for LeadingAge Kansas, the state association for church-based and other not-for-profit providers of aging services. We have 150 members across Kansas, which include not-for-profit nursing homes, long-term care units of critical access hospitals, retirement communities, assisted living, homes plus, housing, low-income housing, home health agencies, home and community-based service programs, PACE and Meals on Wheels. Our members serve more than 25,000 elders each day.

Our testimony today is in support of SB 252, and its creation of the Kansas Innovative Solutions for Affordable Healthcare Act. LeadingAge Kansas supports the creation of a KanCare expansion plan that promotes personal responsibility for participants, and minimizes its effect on the state Medicaid budget. We believe that the program outlined in SB 252 meets both requirements.

LeadingAge Kansas has a large number of hospital-owned members, as well as rural nursing homes that depend on the many services provided by their local hospitals. Failure to expand KanCare has had a significantly negative financial impact on Kansas hospitals, which necessarily has a negative effect on our own members. An increasing number of our hospital-owned nursing homes are closing their doors, and we continually hear of the struggles of nursing homes who are operating in areas where hospitals have closed.

We support SB 252 in order to promote the security and financial sustainability of our own hospital-affiliated members, and the many seniors who rely on their care and services.