

To: Members of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

**From: Sam Huenergardt
President and CEO Mid-America Region, AdventHealth**

Date: January 23, 2020

RE: Senate Bill 252 – Support

On behalf of AdventHealth Mid-America Region, I submit the following testimony in support of **Senate Bill 252**.

AdventHealth Mid-American Region includes several hospitals: AdventHealth Shawnee Mission (formerly Shawnee Mission Medical Center), South Overland Park, AdventHealth Ottawa (formerly Ransom Memorial) and Durand, Wisconsin. We have a large campus in Lenexa and breaking ground soon on another there.

AdventHealth is a non-profit hospital system where we invest right back into our community. We are the largest provider of health care in Johnson County, and AdventHealth Shawnee Mission has been serving Johnson County since 1962.

Our mission is to *Extend the Healing Ministry of Christ*. Access to health care is part of our mission, vision and values. Caring for the less fortunate is part of our mission and faith-based approach, and we're proud to serve a diverse population, which includes Medicaid patients.

Medicaid provides substantial societal and economic benefits by ensuring our community members have access to timely and affordable health care services. Because of this, we see Medicaid as an important investment and not merely a cost.

AdventHealth Shawnee Mission sits along the uninsured corridor in Kansas City which runs roughly along I-35. According to the Kansas Health Institute, in 2017:

- In Johnson County, 30,465 adults aged 19-64 were uninsured. That is 8.6 percent of the adult population in Johnson County.

- Our neighbor to the north, Wyandotte County, had 19,343 uninsured adults. That means 20 percent of adults in Wyandotte County were uninsured. While

our AdventHealth Shawnee Mission is located in Johnson County, we border Wyandotte County and about 20 percent of our patients are from Wyandotte.

If KanCare is expanded, it's estimated that 18,889 Johnson and Wyandotte Countians will benefit by having access to meaningful health care. Currently these adults earn too much to qualify for KanCare, but too little to be eligible for financial help to buy private insurance. These are people in our community who are the working poor.

Medicaid expansion is good for our community, including hospitals. From a hospital perspective, with a number of uninsured individuals visiting our Emergency Department to receive non-emergent care, which is at the highest cost and sickest for our patients, Medicaid expansion will help provide our patients with the ability to receive care in the right setting and properly manage their health, because they have insurance coverage.

AdventHealth is part of a larger system, which is the nation's largest not-for-profit Protestant health care provider. Our organization has hospitals across 9 states, and we have experience in states where Medicaid has been expanded. What AdventHealth has seen firsthand in Colorado, Illinois, and Kentucky is improved health outcomes. We have seen infant mortality rates go down and smoking rates decrease.

After expansion, the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky, released data on reasons to visit the emergency department focused on medical emergencies and other facilities not being open, as opposed to not having a regular doctor. In Kentucky, the delay to seek health care due to cost went down significantly after expansion. We want people to have a primary care doctor, to treat those chronic conditions before they reach a health crisis.

We are excited about this bipartisan compromise for Medicaid Expansion to provide access to affordable health care for more Kansans. This bill has the potential to directly impact 18,000 low-income Johnson and Wyandotte Countians. As Johnson County's leading health care provider, it will help us deliver quality, whole-person care for our community.

Thank you for holding this hearing on Senate Bill 252. I hope you will support this legislation and move it to the Senate floor for passage. Thank you for your service.