



Testimony of Sheridan County Public Health to the

Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

Proponent for SB 252 • 01.16.2020

Chairman Suellentrop and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to supply written testimony in support of Senate Bill 252 regarding expanding medical assistance eligibility. As a local health department, we are not a major recipient of Medicaid dollars, but we often work with those populations that rely upon the Medicaid system and will benefit from this expansion bill.

SB 252 will make tremendous strides in providing insurance coverage to Kansans currently without. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation¹ people without health insurance are more likely to skip preventive services and report that they do not have a regular source of health care. While this has a clear and direct impact on their own individual health (missing things such as checks on cholesterol, blood pressure, and cancer screenings) there can also be a population health impact. Consider contagious disease and how it can spread rapidly if not diagnosed, contained, and treated, to the population at large.

It is always best for a patient receiving treatment to be seen by a healthcare provider. Insurance is the tool that makes this process affordable to our citizens. It is for this reason that the Sheridan County Public Health Department supports SB 252 and asks that you recommend it favorably.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa Wachendorfer', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Melissa Wachendorfer RN/Administrator

Sheridan County Public Health Department

¹ Source: The Uninsured and the ACA: A Primer – Key Facts about Health Insurance and the Uninsured amidst Changes to the Affordable Care Act (1/25/2019): <https://www.kff.org/report-section/the-uninsured-and-the-aca-a-primer-key-facts-about-health-insurance-and-the-uninsured-amidst-changes-to-the-affordable-care-act-how-does-lack-of-insurance-affect-access-to-care/>