

January 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding SB 252. Centers for Independent Living are grassroots advocacy organizations that work to ensure all Kansans with disabilities have opportunities for independent living and enjoy their civil and human rights. The Kansas Association of Centers for Independent Living (KACIL), is a member organization of Centers for Independent Living (CILs) spanning the state.

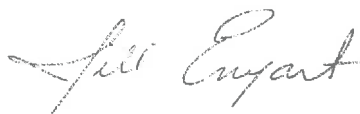
KACIL would like to voice it's support of Medicaid Expansion. Medicaid provides public health insurance to seniors, people with disabilities and children with low incomes. Expanding Medicaid would provide our consumers with greater access to health coverage, resulting in improved health outcomes. Many of our consumers using HCBS services report having difficulty finding care attendants, since these jobs do not offer any benefits. Expanding Medicaid would potentially provide health coverage to many of the care attendants and therefore allow them to continue in their current jobs. This would reduce the burden on HCBS consumers and provide a cost-effective way for these individuals to obtain health coverage.

Expanding Medicaid would allow programs to support components to reduce readmission into the hospital, programs to lower recidivism rates by covering medical transportation and save the state money. States not participating in the expansion are forgoing billions of federal dollars that could provide residents with health coverage. Often individuals without health insurance put off seeing a doctor until it requires an emergency room visit. When an individual can't pay their bill the hospital often absorbs the expense, or it's passed on to private insurance by raising premiums.

KACIL supports Medicaid Expansion that does not impose administrative burden on the consumer or the state. We hope the legislature sees the value in the investment that offering health coverage access to Kansans of low-income can provide. We believe this to be a win for our consumers and a win for local economies.

KACIL is an active member of the Kansas Advocate Network (KAN). We support the testimony they are providing today.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jill Enyart

KACIL Treasurer