January 23, 2020

Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 252.

Chairman Suellentrop and Members of the Committee:

The Shawnee Mission School District legislative platform reflects the policy priorities of our Board and our District. Our Board, our teachers, and our parents continue to push for additional counselors, nurses, and social workers, in order to address the social-emotional needs of our students, and the student and family health issues that all impact their ability to learn. We support Senate Bill 252 for Medicaid expansion because it will have a very significant impact on all of these issues, through the provision of health insurance for a significant portion of our student population, along with their families.

Specifically, our platform states:

Health, Safety and Social and Emotional Well-being
Social-emotional growth is a priority for communities and citizens across the state of Kansas, and is one of five measured outcomes in the Kansans Can Vision for Education. The objectives of the SMSD Strategic Plan emphasize the need for students to develop personal resilience, and develop the interpersonal skills to become an engaged, empathetic member of the local and global community. SMSD supports policies and funding that support the social-emotional growth of students, along with their physical well-being, and will advocate to:

13. Support for Medicaid Expansion that will increase health insurance coverage for a significant number of families in our community, promoting family access to health care, repeal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) program restrictions, access and maximize usage of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds, all of which will increase the opportunities for students to be successful in school.

If I can provide any additional information or answer questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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