



# *Testimony*

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## **Medicaid Expansion SB 252**

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Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee**

The Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City supports Senate Bill 252.

The expansion of the Kansas Medicaid program will improve access to care for those most vulnerable in Wyandotte County. It is estimated that expansion would provide insurance for 10,131 uninsured Wyandotte County residents, bring \$67.8-million in new annual healthcare spending to Wyandotte County and create hundreds of new healthcare jobs.

We turn back \$1.8 million of our federal tax dollars every day that could be used for this program. Instead of investing in a state-specific solution to improve and expand KanCare, these funds go to other states. KanCare expansion is a fiscally responsible way to grow the economy and create new jobs, support hospitals and give thousands of Kansans access to health care coverage. It is a common sense step in the right direction that puts practicality over politics.

What starts as a small investment in health care will trigger a chain reaction of economic development across our county and state. More Kansans with access to routine and preventive care will bring down costs and create jobs for doctors, nurses, medical support staff and others, helping to boost local economies and grow small businesses.