



**An independent voice
those served by KanCare**

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Chairman Suellentrop and members of the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare: Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of expanding Medicaid. The KanCare Advocates Network (KAN) is a coalition of organizations and individuals who advocate on behalf of the 400,000 Kansans who depend upon the Kansas Medicaid program, KanCare, and its seven HCBS waiver programs for their health care and long-term supports and services.

As a coalition, KAN has closely monitored KanCare policies and processes and advocates for a variety of solutions to improve KanCare. Since KAN began, expanding Medicaid has been a top priority of our legislative platform. With 150,000 Kansans who do not have health insurance, this issue continues to be a high priority issue for all KAN partners, collectively and individually.

The reasons for expanding are many and varied, but among the most compelling are:

- Expansion spurs economic growth
- Expansion is a Kansas-based solution
- Expansion protects access to care, especially in rural areas
- Expansion provides health insurance to 150,000 hardworking Kansans who can't afford other coverage
- Expansion helps uninsured military veterans and their families
- Expansion controls health insurance costs

For these reasons and many more, KAN strongly supports KanCare expansion and we ask for your support and leadership in making it a reality in Kansas. Thank you.

Sean Gatewood, KAN co-administrator

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