



January 19, 2020

The Honorable Gene Suellentrop
Chair, Public Health and Welfare Committee
Kansas Senate
300 SW 10th St.
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Chairman Suellentrop and Members of the Committee:

At The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS), our mission is to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and to improve the quality of life of patients and their families. We support that mission by advocating that patients have sustainable access to quality, affordable, coordinated healthcare. On behalf of the more than 13,000 Kansans living with blood cancer, we urge you to vote "yes" on Senate Bill 252 quickly and without adding harmful amendments.

Our views on the importance of Medicaid expansion remain consistent. Many people on Medicaid have complex and costly healthcare needs. Expanding access to Medicaid – as a majority of Kansans have long supported – is essential to improving health and saving lives. Specific to cancer, Medicaid expansion has helped close disparities in cancer treatment.ⁱ Expansion also helps state economies: it has been associated with a reduced risk of hospital closures, especially in rural areas,ⁱⁱ and reduces the uncompensated care burden for hospitals.ⁱⁱⁱ

KanCare expansion has the potential to provide care to about 150,000 Kansans to help manage their health and treat disease. For cancer patients, that care includes primary care providers, specialists, prescription drugs, and other services that can help these patients live healthier, more productive lives. Amending SB 252 to include delays or barriers to access (such as complex waivers, work requirements, lockouts, or higher premiums^{iv}) will work against this opportunity to make life better for the patients LLS serves.

Thank you for your consideration of our letter. We hope that your committee will move swiftly and in a bipartisan manner to pass a clean version of SB 252 to help more Kansans receive the high-quality, affordable, coordinated healthcare they need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Bacon".

Dana Bacon
Regional Director, Government Affairs
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
dana.bacon@lls.org

ⁱ American Society of Clinical Oncology (June 2, 2019). <https://www.asco.org/about-asco/press-center/news-releases/racial-disparities-access-timely-cancer-treatment-nearly>

ⁱⁱ Richard Lindrooth, Marcelo Perrillon, Rose Hardy, and Gregory Tung, "Understanding the Relationship Between Medicaid Expansions and Hospital Closures," *Health Affairs*, 27, no. 1 (January 2018): pp. 111-120. <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/abs/10.1377/hlthaff.2017.0976>

ⁱⁱⁱ Jordan H. Rhodes, Thomas C. Buchmueller, Helen G. Levy, and Sayeh S. Nikpay, "Heterogeneous Effects of the ACA Medicaid Expansion on Hospital Financial Outcomes," *Contemporary Economic Policy* (April 10, 2019). <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/coep.12428>

^{iv} Sherman Smith, "Kansas Health Institute: Premiums would block 27,000 from Medicaid expansion, add \$2.9 million in revenue," *The Garden City Telegram* (May 2, 2019). <https://www.gctelegram.com/news/20190502/kansas-health-institute-premiums-would-block-27000-from-medicaid-expansion-add-29-million-in-revenue/1>

National Office
3 International Drive
Suite 200
Rye Brook, NY 10573
main 914.949.5213
www.LLS.org

**BEATING
CANCER
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