



**Written Testimony Supporting KanCare Expansion  
Submitted to the Committee on Public Health and Welfare  
January 23, 2020  
By Susan G. Komen® Kansas and Western Missouri**

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Chairman Suellentrop, Vice Chair Berger and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of KanCare expansion. Nearly 150,000 Kansans currently fall into a health coverage gap. They earn too much to qualify for KanCare, but too little to be eligible for financial help to buy private insurance.

Komen Kansas and Western Missouri has long been committed to ensuring that all Kansans have access to the cancer care that could save their lives. Expanding eligibility for KanCare would ensure the availability of the full range of breast health services to low-income residents, including required cancer screening, diagnostics services and treatment.

More than 11% of women in Kansas between the ages of 19 and 64 are uninsured.<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately, we know that health insurance is key to obtaining needed health care services, and those who lack insurance are less likely to get timely, appropriate and high-quality care.<sup>2</sup>

Having a regular provider is one of the best predictors of mammography use. Women with a regular primary care physician, for example, are more than twice as likely as women without one to have undergone mammography screening. Many women who delay screening may be diagnosed with more advanced breast cancers that are more difficult to treat, deadlier, and as much as five times more expensive to treat than cancers caught in earlier stages.

Uninsured residents often have inadequate access to care, get a lower standard of care when they are in the health system, and have poorer outcomes.<sup>3</sup> This is likely a leading cause of uninsured women with breast cancer having up to a **50 percent higher risk of dying** than insured women.<sup>4</sup>

Newly eligible women enrolling in the expanded Medicaid program will be able to receive preventive care, including regular breast cancer screening and diagnostic services, at no cost, as well as coverage for other breast health and breast cancer care services.

Expanding KanCare will create thousands of jobs and return hundreds of millions of tax dollars to our state every year. The federal government will cover most of the costs of this expansion, providing Kansas with an unprecedented opportunity to provide health insurance coverage to the state's most vulnerable residents with little or no cost to the state.

Susan G. Komen is committed to ensuring that all women have access to the cancer care that can save their lives, we urge you to support KanCare expansion. **We sincerely hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to help the underserved women in our state receive the breast health and cancer care they require by supporting SB252.** Thank you for your consideration.

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<sup>1</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation. "Women's Health Insurance Coverage" November 2017

<sup>2</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation. "Women's Health Insurance Coverage" November 2017

<sup>3</sup> Institute of Medicine. Insuring America's health: principles and recommendations. Washington, DC: National Academies Press; 2004.

<sup>4</sup> Thorpe KE, Howard D. "Health Insurance and Spending Among Cancer Patients" Health Affairs 2003; W3: 189-198,