



January 23, 2020

The Honorable Gene Sullentrop, Chairman  
The Honorable Barbara Boller, Ranking Member  
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee  
Room 118-N Kansas State Capitol  
300 SW Tenth Avenue  
Topeka, KS 66612-1504

Dear Chairman Sullentrop and Ranking Member Boller,

The Kansas Society of Clinical Oncology (KaSCO) and the Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) write to you in strong support of Kansas Senate Bill 252. SB 252 will promote the mission of the Medicaid program and provide greater access to cancer treatment for many Kansans. KaSCO and ASCO support Medicaid expansion in order to ensure access to life-saving screening, treatment and prevention services for all low-income Kansans.

Founded in 1994, KaSCO is the largest oncology professional organization in the state. KaSCO is a powerful community of oncologists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and other allied health professionals who provide a voice for multidisciplinary cancer care teams and the patients they serve. ASCO is the national organization representing approximately 45,000 physicians and other healthcare professionals specializing in cancer treatment, diagnosis, and prevention. Our core mission is to ensure that cancer patients have meaningful access to high quality cancer care.

Published in 2014 by our affiliate organization, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the "[ASCO Policy Statement on Medicaid Reform](#)," calls for Medicaid expansion in all 50 states to close critical coverage gaps, improve cancer screening and prevention services, and end coverage restrictions that prevent Medicaid enrollees from receiving high-quality cancer care. Currently, 439,000 Kansans receive health coverage through Medicaid. If SB 252 is passed and enacted, some estimates show close to 150,000 more individuals will be eligible for KanCare.


KaSCO and ASCO believe that no individual diagnosed with cancer should be without health insurance that guarantees access to high-quality cancer care, which includes care delivered by a cancer specialist, as well as access to clinical trial participation. ASCO offers policy recommendations for states interested in expanding Medicaid, including ensuring access to orally-administered cancer medications by setting out-of-pocket expenses to be no less favorable to those for other intravenous (IV) or injected anticancer medications, coverage of the routine care costs for clinical trial participation for Medicaid beneficiaries, and ensuring better coverage of cancer screening and genetic testing under Medicaid.

According to an article published in the Journal of Oncology Practice in February 2018 entitled, "[Trends in Insurance Status Among Patients Diagnosed With Cancer Before and After Implementation of the Affordable Care Act](#)", within Medicaid expansion states:

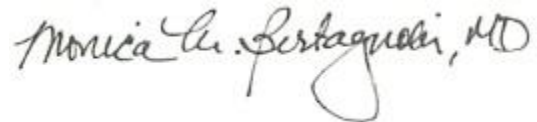
- The uninsured rates for patients in expansion states with a new diagnosis of lung or colon cancer decreased by at least 50%.
- The uninsured rate for patients in expansion states with a new diagnosis of breast cancer decreased by over 40%.
- The decline in the rate of uninsured did not decrease for patients living in non-expansion states.

KaSCO and ASCO applaud the bipartisan efforts thus far in working to deliver greater access to lifesaving cancer treatment for many more Kansans. Our Societies urge the Kansas Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare to take this important step for Kansans and pass SB 252 out of committee. If you have questions or would like assistance on any issue involving the care of individuals with cancer, please contact Jeremy Deutsch, MD at [jeremy.deutsch@cancercenterofkansas.com](mailto:jeremy.deutsch@cancercenterofkansas.com) or Aaron Segel at ASCO at [aaron.segel@asco.org](mailto:aaron.segel@asco.org).

Sincerely,



Jeremy Deutsch, MD  
President  
Kansas Society of Clinical Oncology



Monica Bertagnolli, MD, FACS, FASCO  
Chair of the Board  
Association for Clinical Oncology