

Our Thoughts on Obamacare Medicaid Expansion

Ref: SB252

[Note that we are not experts on this issue; just concerned citizens / taxpayers / voters in Kansas voicing our opinion. We respect the opinion of specialists such as Beverly Kastl Gossage, and recommend her highly for more detailed information¹.]

We are very concerned about Obamacare Medicaid Expansion. We think it will do very little good and end up harming Kansas in the long run. We are reading that the promise that it will keep the small rural hospitals open is not true. That has not been the case in other states that have expanded Medicaid so it will likely not help here in Kansas either². Most of the Obamacare Medicaid Expansion money will likely go to the large urban hospitals not the rural ones³.

Why don't we rather come up with other self-reliant solutions such as what Fort Scott has done over the last year after losing their hospital? They are fairing quite well and even better in some ways than before⁴.

We fear that Obamacare Medicaid Expansion will end up costing our state more money than planned for and will ultimately create the need to raise taxes again. This is because enrollment has been higher than projected in every other Obamacare Medicaid Expansion state, and because costs per patient have been higher in many cases⁵. We are already the highest taxed state around us and believe that higher taxes tend to drive business and opportunity out of our state. Of course, we do not want that!

There is some concern on our part that Obamacare Medicaid Expansion is an effort to move more people on to government programs and one step closer to socialized medicine. We fear that "single-payer" systems often associated with socialized medicine can lead to longer wait times and deterioration in care⁶.

We are also reading that Obamacare Medicaid Expansion will NOT better serve the people it is intended to serve as it will force people off their other plans and force them onto Medicaid which they don't really want, just like has happened in other states leading to overloading of the system. We are also

¹ See <https://sentinelksmo.org/faqs-on-kansas-medicaid-expansion-with-beverly-gossage/> for more information

² Example: This recent article regarding Arkansas <https://townhall.com/columnists/nicholashorton/2019/10/24/another-broken-obamacare-promise-medicaid-expansion-is-still-not-saving-arkansas-hospitals-n2555340> and <https://thefga.org/commentary/another-broken-obamacare-promise-medicaid-expansion-is-still-not-saving-arkansas-hospitals/>

³ From this article: <https://sentinelksmo.org/medicaid-expansion-wont-save-rural-hospitals/>

⁴ From this article: <https://khn.org/news/coping-with-loss-of-hospital-rural-town-realizes-we-dont-need-a-hospital/>

⁵ From this article: <https://www.mercatus.org/publications/healthcare/aca-medicaid-expansion> and this article https://www.denverpost.com/2019/02/20/hospital-costs-increase-medicaid-expansion/?fbclid=IwAR03cGFQKWZ_oBUPEDtxvFpBkscPLkrOkSDzmPWmDwPWE1_gnNCAiwfNwGE

⁶ From this article: <https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2020/1/15/21065685/guest-opinion-british-patients-deserve-better-than-single-payer-so-do-americans>

concerned that there is no work requirement for able-bodied folks to get on it either, which would likely consume scarce resources better suited to those who need it.

One of our biggest concerns is that with Obamacare Medicaid Expansion we could be paying for abortions with our tax dollars as well. It is a moral dilemma for us and does not reflect what is reported to be a “bipartisan” agreement. This is because the proposal seems to be in violation of the Kansas Republican Party Platform⁷, both in terms of public funding of abortion and Obamacare Medicaid Expansion, and thus is completely unacceptable to us. Likewise, it should also be unacceptable to any member of the Republican Party.

In conclusion, we are asking you to not vote for passing this bill out of committee, and to not support it further if it does make it out of committee.

Thank you for your consideration,

Barbara Kriegshauser and John Kriegshauser

Republican Precinct Leaders, Overland Park Ward 2, Precinct 15

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⁷ See Articles V and VIII at <https://www.kansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/2018-Platform.pdf>