



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 407

February 17, 2022

Chairman Hildebrand and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare:

The Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (KAAP) represents more than 450 pediatricians in Kansas. The KAAP has the fundamental goal that all children and adolescents in Kansas have the opportunity to grow safe and strong. It is with this goal in mind that we want to share our support for SB 407, a common-sense technical fix bill that addresses a mistake in statute dating back to 2008. The bill corrects the issue so that Kansas is back in alignment with federal regulations for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Established in 1997 with bipartisan support, CHIP provides access to healthcare for low-income children by providing well child checks and vaccinations.

All children in Kansas deserve access to quality health care and SB 407 is important for providing that access. The bill removes the erosion of the eligibility threshold for CHIP. Current Kansas statute has CHIP eligibility tied to the 2008 federal poverty level. It is supposed to be 250% of FPL, but with the 2008 year reference in statute, in 2021, this translates now to 225% of FPL; the percentage will continue to decrease each year until this problem is fixed. This bill eliminates that language and fixes this issue.

According to KHI 2019 population estimates, there were an estimated 47,063 Kansas children under age 19 with family income between 225 and 250% FPL. The estimate is based on the U.S. Census Bureau 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) file.

Additionally, SB 407 Removes a waiting period clause that is out of alignment with federal regulations. Current federal regulations allow for waiting periods of no more than three months for the CHIP program. In 2019, Kansas submitted a state plan amendment (SPA) to eliminate the waiting period for CHIP. This bill puts our statute back in alignment with the regulatory change.

Thank you for your time and consideration in supporting SB 407 that will increase access to health care for our children in Kansas.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristie Clark, MD
Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
President