



February 15, 2022

Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
300 SW 10th St
Topeka, KS 66612

To the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare Members,

I am writing on behalf of Heartspring in regards to SB 407 (and the companion HB 2573) which corrects issues bringing Kansas back in alignment with federal regulations for the Children's Health Insurance Program, or CHIP.

SB 407 accomplishes two things:

1. It corrects the eligibility threshold for CHIP. The current Kansas statute ties CHIP eligibility to 2008 federal poverty guidelines, FPL. Federal regulations require the eligibility threshold to be 250% of FPL, but with the 2008 reference in statute this translates to 225% of FPL in 2021, and the percentage will continue to decrease each year until this problem is fixed. SB 407 removes the language and fixes the issue.
2. It also removes the 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 the statute back in alignment with the regulatory change.

Currently, Kansas is the only state with language referencing a specific year for the federal poverty level for CHIP. While other programs referenced in Kansas statute do not tie the federal poverty level to a specific year. This statute is the exception.

We encourage you to pass SB 407, and potentially impact more than 47,000* children in the state of Kansas!

Thank you,

Rachel Mayberry
Senior Director of Public Policy and Communications

About Heartspring: HEARTSPRING, INC. was founded as "The Institute of Logopedics" nonprofit organization in 1934 in partnership with Wichita State University. The early service model prioritized children experiencing speech and hearing challenges. Located on a beautiful 35-acre campus in Wichita, Heartspring (www.heartspring.org) is now known as one of the most ground-breaking therapeutic schools and pediatric service centers in the world.

Heartspring serves children with multiple intellectual and developmental needs, such as: living with autism, challenges with speech, language, and communication, challenges with mobility and other motor functions, a limited ability to regulate stress or distress, and other pediatric healthcare complexities.

* This estimate is based on KHI 2019 population estimates and the U.S. Census Bureau 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) file.