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Sen. Hilderbrand, and members of the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare; thank you for the opportunity to add our support to SB 407.

KanCare Advocates Network (KAN) is a coalition of more than 50 organizations and individuals who advocate on behalf of and serve and the 400,000 Kansans who depend upon the Kansas Medicaid program, KanCare, and its seven Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver programs for their health care and long-term supports and services. As a broad-based, statewide network of providers and advocates, we support policies and legislation, such as SB 407, that support Kansans of all ages who are served through KanCare.

The intent of SB 407 is clear and two-fold:

- It removes indexing language which constrains CHIP eligibility to the 2008 federal poverty level (FPL). Kansas is the only state with specific language tying CHIP eligibility to a particular year. For more than 13 years, this statute has prevented countless families from having health insurance coverage for their children.
- It removes the waiting period which is out of alignment with federal regulations. Current federal regulations allow for waiting periods of no more than three months. Kansas submitted a State Plan Amendment in 2019 to eliminate the waiting period for CHIP. SB 407 aligns Kansas law with the federal regulations.

It is time to remove the dated reference to the FPL and align Kansas law with federal regulations and current State operations. SB 407 accomplishes these goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to support these improvements to the KanCare program and ask you to pass SB 407.

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