



MEDIA RELEASE

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Kansans Overwhelmingly Support a Unique Kansas Solution to Expanding KanCare

*Republicans, Independents and Democrats strongly favor
The Bridge to a Healthy Kansas legislation*

(Topeka, Kan. – March 7, 2016) – Kansas voters continue to support expanding the Kansas Medicaid program that would extend health care coverage under KanCare to include approximately 150,000 individuals earning less than 138 percent of the federal poverty level. This support (62 percent) has remained consistent over the last two years.

The February 2016 statewide public opinion poll shows majority support for expanding KanCare across all four congressional districts in Kansas, and among both men and women in all age groups. This recent poll found that support for expanding KanCare grew to as much as 76 percent as Kansans learned of new legislation that proposes a budget-neutral program, The Bridge to a Healthy Kansas.

After learning that a new budget-neutral program would require beneficiaries to meet legal residency and work-status requirements and pay a portion of their own health care costs, there was a 14-point increase in support and a nine-point decrease in opposition: 76 percent expressed support, 20 percent were not supportive, and four percent were not sure. Among Republicans, support ranged from 74 to 77 percent when eligibility requirements were explained; among Independents, support reached 82 percent; and among Democrats, support was 71-74 percent.

Similarly, 72 percent of the Kansas residents surveyed expressed support after learning The Bridge to a Healthy Kansas program is not Obamacare, but rather, a unique, budget-neutral solution that will not require the use of State General Funds and will likely produce a net financial gain for Kansas.

This statewide public opinion poll was conducted by Public Opinion Strategies from February 18-21, 2016. Results can be found on the KHA website at www.kha-net.org. The survey was administered by phone to a stratified random sample of 500 likely voters in Kansas, including 200 cell phone respondents. The overall results of the survey have a margin of error of +/- 4.38 percent.

About Kansas Hospital Association

The Kansas Hospital Association is a voluntary, non-profit organization existing to be the leading advocate and resource for members. KHA membership includes 212 member facilities, of which 126 are full-service, community hospitals. Founded in 1910, KHA's vision is: "*Optimal Health for Kansans.*"

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