

**We CARE
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Sample Questions for Candidates to the Kansas Legislature

General:

- Why do you want to be elected to the Kansas Legislature?
- What are the three issues that are the most important to you?

General Health Care in Kansas:

- What is your vision for health care in Kansas and how will you pursue it? What is your view of the role hospitals and health systems play in Kansas?
- What is the single greatest health care challenge facing Kansas today and how do you plan to address it?
- What are the regulatory barriers to transforming health care in Kansas, and how do you plan to address those issues?

KanCare/Medicaid:

- What is your impression of the KanCare program? Are there areas that you would like to see improved under the KanCare program?
- Did you know that Kansas hospitals are required by law to provide emergency and stabilization care to any individual who presents to a hospital emergency room? In addition, the Medicaid program does not pay Kansas hospitals adequate reimbursement to cover their cost of providing care. Knowing this information, what do you believe the State of Kansas should do to address this issue?
- If Kansas hospitals and health systems continue to be reimbursed for Medicaid at rates significantly below actual cost, how should health care providers make up the difference in order to balance their budgets?
- Kansas businesses are growing increasingly concerned that inadequate payment from public health care programs like Medicaid, combined with other economic pressures, force hospitals to shift costs by charging higher rates to private health plans. This amounts to a “hidden health care tax” on businesses and other private health care consumers. Medicaid payments currently cover approximately 73 percent of hospitals’ total costs and are vulnerable to additional cuts as state revenues fluctuate. What are your ideas for eliminating this cost shift to businesses and other Kansans who purchase private health insurance?

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Expand KanCare:

- Current legislation is available that delivers a unique, Kansas-based solution for expanding KanCare to cover 150,000 hard working Kansans. Is KanCare expansion a program that you would be willing to support?
- If your local community and health care providers urged your support in expanding the KanCare program, would you be willing to advocate for this initiative in the Kansas legislature?

Workforce:

- Kansas is already experiencing a shortage of health care practitioners, especially primary care physicians, physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses. In the foreseeable future, as the population of Kansas continues to age, even more Kansans will seek health care services. What do you see as the state's role in ensuring an adequate and increasing supply of health care providers?

Behavioral Health Care:

- Behavioral health services administered by the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services have been significantly challenged the last several years due to overcrowding at state hospitals and a lack of psychiatrists across the state. Treatment is limited because of a severe shortage in psychiatrists and other behavioral health providers. With the most recent budget cuts and regulatory changes, and without expanded KanCare coverage in the state, adults and children with behavioral health and substance abuse problems will have very limited health care resources and treatment options. Due to a severe shortage of inpatient beds for voluntary and involuntary patients, behavioral health patients must seek care in hospital emergency departments. What recommendations would you offer to make Kansas' behavioral health system more effective and efficient (funding, accountability, access, providing insurance coverage, etc.)?

Telemedicine:


- Do you support payment parity to ensure that insurance carriers are adequately reimbursing Kansas health care providers for services performed via telemedicine?

Opioid and Substance Use Disorders:

- Across the nation, many states are confronting the issue of opioid use and substance use disorders. Do you support a federal or state approach in tackling this issue? What policies, if any, do you believe should be considered on the state and/or national level?

Health Care Transparency:

- The issue of health care transparency continues to be discussed on a state and federal level. As consumers take more control of their health care needs, the demand for transparency will grow. What role do you believe health care providers and insurance carriers should have in health care transparency?



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