



Kansas Hospital
ASSOCIATION

Kansas Hospital Association Survey - Michelle De La Isla

Besides the COVID-19 pandemic, what do you believe is the most pressing health care issue facing Americans today? How would you propose to address this issue if you were elected to Congress?

I want to make sure that healthcare is available to every Kansan, without breaking the bank. Our healthcare system isn't working for everyone. I will prioritize two specific policies when I get to Washington: I will work to strengthen the Affordable Care Act, including preserving funds for Medicaid expansion, and authorizing the federal government to negotiate the price of prescription drugs. Many Kansans can no longer afford their medications, even if they have health insurance. Authorizing the federal government to negotiate prescription drug prices under Medicare Part D will drive costs down so that medications are more affordable for everyone.

What policies would you support in Congress to provide hospitals the necessary resources to effectively deal with the COVID-19 pandemic in their communities?

Our hospitals need to be a part of the conversation when it comes to providing financial relief due to the impacts of Covid-19. I will listen to our hospitals and medical providers to understand what exactly you need to continue providing services to your patients, and keep people employed while we navigate this extraordinary health and economic crisis.

When I am elected, I will advocate for hospitals to be included in any stimulus or relief package that is proposed to help our state and nation overcome the virus. Funding for additionally PPE, and PPP, as well as potential grants and other financial relief, should be provided to hospitals, medical providers, clinics and health care providers at every level – especially in our rural communities.

The 340B drug pricing program has been essential for many Kansas hospitals who serve a high proportion of low-income Kansans. Do you support this program as it is or are would you be recommending any changes to it like those being sought by pharmaceutical companies?

I support the 340B drug pricing program's mission to provide reduced and affordable prescription medications to uninsured and indigent patients. Especially without Medicaid expansion in

Kansas, this is a critical program to ensure our most vulnerable residents can access appropriate healthcare without filing bankruptcy. I will advocate to ensure that programs like 340B remain available to Kansas residents so that no one falls through the gap without access to medication.

What changes would you champion to reduce the regulatory burden for hospitals under the Medicare and Medicaid programs?

While regulations help standardize the healthcare industry and ensure the safety of both patients, medical providers and personnel, it is also important for regulations to allow for efficient service delivery and billing procedures that prevents unnecessary waste of time, resources, and money on both sides. I will listen to our hospitals and medical providers to better understand the regulations that are burdensome under Medicare and Medicaid and work to build more efficient systems that achieve positive outcomes for all concerned.

What steps would you take to provide relief for small and rural hospitals to ensure they can continue to provide health care services to their communities?

First and foremost, our hospitals need to be a part of the conversation, and fostering a relationship with the KHA is an integral part of creating any plan to provide relief in Kansas. When I am elected, I will advocate for hospitals to be included in any stimulus or relief package that is proposed to help our state and nation overcome the virus. Funding for additionally PPE, and PPP should be provided to hospitals, medical providers, clinics and health care providers at every level – especially in our rural communities.

I will also advocate for Medicaid expansion and ensure that federal funds are still available when it finally passes the state legislature in Kansas. I will also work to fortify the Affordable Care Act to ensure that pre-existing conditions are covered by all health plans.

How do you view the role of telemedicine in our current health care system? Do you support any federal telehealth policy changes to make it more accessible?

Telemedicine is a vital part of providing equal access to healthcare, especially in our rural communities where hospitals and medical facilities have been unfairly forced to make cuts or close. It is not reasonable to ask our residents to drive hours away to seek medical attention or receive basic, preventative care. That system will only result in more people developing chronic, untreated health conditions. We must work with hospitals, medical providers, and the insurance industry to make sure that telemedicine options are widely accessible and appropriately covered under health plans so that the patient's needs are put first, and our medical providers can develop efficient service delivery systems with telemedicine options.