



KHA's Capitol Comments
March 20, 2024

Medicaid Expansion Gets Hearings

Today, both the House Health Committee and a Joint Committee made up of members from Senate Ways and Means and Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee held hearings on Medicaid expansion bills, [House Bill 2556](#) and [Senate Bill 355](#).

The Senate Committee was an informational hearing, chaired by Sen. Carolyn McGinn (R-Sedgwick). The committee heard from the following conferees:

Proponents:

- Christine Osterlund, state Medicaid director, Topeka
- Eddie Hermann, HaysMed, Hays
- Marcillene Dover, private citizen
- Billie Hall, Sunflower Foundation, Topeka
- Rep. Donny Lambeth, North Carolina General Assembly
- Sheriff Jeffrey Easter, Kansas Sheriffs' Association
- Erica Christie, Three Rivers Independent Living, Wamego
- Doug Gruenbacher, MD, Kansas Academy of Family Physicians, Overland Park

Neutral Testimony:

- Kari Bruffett, Kansas Health Institute, Topeka

Opponent Testimony:

- Sen. Beverly Gossage (R-Eudora)
- Sam Adolphsen, Opportunity Solutions Project, Tallahassee, FL
- Rep. Will Carpenter (R-El Dorado)
- Michael Cannon, Cato Institute, Washington, D.C.
- Brittany Jones, Kansas Family Voice, Wichita
- Dean Clancy, Americans for Prosperity

The committee asked why North Carolina went forward with expansion even though they saw similar opponents testimony. What percentage of the expansion population in other states aren't working. What is the coverage rate for pregnant women. Questions about Medicaid fraud, how expansion can reduce property taxes, how expansion helps those on the disability waivers list.

On the House side, the hearing was on [House Bill 2556](#). The committee heard from the following:

Proponents:

- Christine Osterlund, state Medicaid director, Topeka
- Erica Christie, Three Rivers Independent Living, Wamego
- Representative Donny Lambeth, North Carolina General Assembly
- Billie Hall, Sunflower Foundation, Topeka
- Benjamin Anderson, Hutchinson Regional Healthcare System, Hutchinson
- Tim DeWise, Johnson County Mental Health Centers
- Marcillene Dover, private citizen
- Sheriff Jeffrey Easter, Kansas Sheriffs' Association
- Doug Gruenbacher, MD, Kansas Academy of Family Physicians, Overland Park

Opponents:

- Sen. Beverly Gossage (R-Eudora)
- Sam Adolphsen, Opportunity Solutions Project
- Rep. Will Carpenter (R-El Dorado)
- Michael Cannon, Cato Institute
- Brittany Jones, Kansas Family Voice
- Dean Clancy, Americans for Prosperity

The committee will meet again tomorrow.

Senate Health Committee Takes Final Action on Bills

Today, the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, chaired by Sen. Beverly Gossage (R-Eudora), took final action on the following bills:

[House Bill 2453](#) enacts the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact to provide interstate practice privileges for dentists and dental hygienists. The committee recommended the bill favorably for passage. It now goes to the Senate.

[House Bill 2484](#) enacts the Social Work Licensure Compact to provide interstate practice privileges for social workers. The committee saw a motion to move the licensure fee cap from \$25 to \$35, which was not successful. The committee recommended the bill favorably for passage. It now goes to the Senate.

[House Bill 2578](#) provides programs and treatments provided by a certified community behavioral health clinic be granted a renewal certification if such programs and treatments have been previously certified or accredited. The committee recommended the bill favorably for passage. It now goes to the Senate.

[House Bill 2754](#) authorizes counties to use home rule powers to exempt from conducting school sanitary inspections. The bill was recommended favorably for passage. It now goes to the full Senate.

The committee meets tomorrow for final action on the remainder of the bills before them including [House Bill 2751](#), [House Bill 2749](#) and [House Bill 2784](#).

House Insurance Committee Passes Hospital Pricing Transparency Bill

Today, the House Insurance Committee, chaired by Rep. Bill Sutton (R-Gardner), passed [House Bill 2825](#), enacting consumer protection related to hospital price transparency.

The committee voted on a division vote to recommend the bill favorably for passage on a vote of 7-9.

Voting for passage:

- Rep. Leah Howell (R-Wichita)
- Rep. Emil Bergquist (R-Park City)
- Rep. Pat Proctor (R-Leavenworth)
- Rep. Patrick Penn (R-Wichita)
- Rep. Sean Tarwater (R-Stilwell)
- Rep. Robyn Essex (R-Olathe)
- Rep. Jeff Underhill (R-Junction City)
- Rep. Mike Dodson (R-Manhattan)
- Rep. Tory Blew (R-Great Bend)

Voting against the passage was:

- Rep. Melissa Oropeza (D-Kansas City)
- Rep. Ken Collins (R-Mulberry)
- Rep. Kirk Haskins (D-Topeka)
- Rep. Heather Meyer (D-Kansas City)
- Rep. Silas Miller (D-Wichita)
- Rep. Brandon Woodard (D-Lenexa)
- Rep. Paul Waggoner (R-Hutchinson)

The legislation now goes to the House floor.