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## **Poll: Kansas Voters Want State to Use Federal Funds to Cover Uninsured Through Medicaid**

*Strong support KanCare changes across all party lines*

**Topeka, Kansas– February 26, 2014** – Public opinion polling released today by the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) shows that registered voters in Kansas strongly agree that the state should accept federal funds that are available to broaden access to health coverage through KanCare, the program under which Medicaid is administered in Kansas. By a margin of 72 percent to 24 percent, Kansas voters support such a move, which would provide more low-income Kansans with access to lifesaving preventive care and treatments for cancer and other serious diseases.

The poll, conducted by nationally recognized firm, Public Opinion Strategies, reflects strong public support for Kansas to make Medicaid coverage available to individuals and families earning up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level, as provided by the Affordable Care Act. Under the law, federal funds would pay 100 percent of the costs of covering more uninsured people in the state beginning in 2014, with the federal share gradually decreasing to no less than 90 percent of the costs.

“Kansas has an opportunity to provide thousands of currently uninsured people with lifesaving health coverage through the expansion of KanCare and public sentiment is decidedly in favor of using available federal dollars to pay for it,” said Reagan Cussimano, Kansas government relations director for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), the advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society. “If Kansas makes the right choice, families across the state will have the security of knowing they have access to proven cancer screenings and treatments they otherwise could not afford.”

Key findings of the poll include:

- By a 48 point margin, Kansas voters want the state to accept federal money to cover more uninsured adults with health coverage through Medicaid or by helping uninsured individuals buy private plans (72% vs. 24%).
- When they learn that by turning down the federal money that Kansans who earn less than \$15,000 a year would not receive any new help to get affordable health coverage while uninsured people making more than \$15,000 would qualify for new tax credits to help them pay for coverage – more than two-thirds of voters want Kansas leaders to accept the federal money (74% vs. 20%).
- Support for using federal funds to provide health care under Medicaid crosses all party lines with 59 % of Republicans, 75% of Independents and 92 % of Democrats in favor.

“Beginning next year, Medicaid will offer a defined set of essential benefits to prevent and treat a serious disease such as cancer,” Cussimano said. “Improving access to coverage through KanCare expansion will save lives and reduce health care costs, which are an increasing burden on our state.”

ACS CAN is working in Kansas to support strong implementation of provisions of the ACA that enable people with cancer or at risk for cancer to access critical prevention measures such as mammograms and colonoscopies, treatments and follow-up care for cancer.

*ACS CAN, the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society, supports evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem. ACS CAN works to encourage elected officials and candidates to make cancer a top national priority. ACS CAN gives ordinary people extraordinary power to fight cancer with the training and tools they need to make their voices heard. For more information, visit [www.acscan.org](http://www.acscan.org).*

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