



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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New Poll Shows Kansans Want State to Use Federal Funds ***Strong Support to Broaden Access to Health Care through KanCare***

(February 27, 2014) Yesterday, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network [released a public opinion poll](#) that revealed 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 health care services.

“It is now apparent that Kansans of all political stripes agree our state has an excellent opportunity to develop a Kansas solution that builds upon our own KanCare program,” said Tom Bell, president and CEO of the Kansas Hospital Association. “Failure to move forward with a Kansas plan is resulting in real cuts to hospitals and the patients they serve, while at the same time, paying for coverage expansion in other states.”

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. 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.

Kansas hospitals appreciate the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network for their recognition of this important issue in Kansas. Their leadership to ensure Kansas has an opportunity to provide thousands of currently uninsured people with lifesaving health coverage through the expansion of KanCare has been essential.

The Kansas Hospital Association is a not-for-profit association of health care provider organizations and individuals that are committed to the health improvement of their communities. KHA membership includes 215 member facilities, of which 128 are full-service community hospitals. Founded in 1910, KHA maintains its vision of “an organization of hospitals working together to improve access, quality and the affordability of health care for all Kansans.”

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