



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Kansas Senate Passes KanCare Expansion**

*Senate votes 25 to 14 in support of The Bridge to a Healthy Kansas*

(March 28, 2017) – The Bridge to a Healthy Kansas (HB 2044) passed the Kansas Senate by a strong bi-partisan vote of 25-14. This KanCare expansion legislation passed the House of Representatives in February by a margin of 81-44. With more than 82 percent of Kansas voters who support the effort, many are now looking to what the Governor will do next. This legislation is fiscally responsible and brings hundreds of millions of our federal tax dollars back to Kansas. It will create jobs, boost our economy, protect hospitals and improve the health of Kansans.

“Kansas needs to be vigilant and take advantage of the opportunity we have today. Speaker Paul Ryan confirmed the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is the law of the land. Time is of the essence,” said Tom Bell, president and CEO, Kansas Hospital Association. “Last week’s action on the federal level on the American Health Care Act (AHCA) removes any doubt that Medicaid expansion will remain in place. It also confirms that the Kansas House and Senate were right to consider and advance legislation to expand KanCare this session,” said Bell.

To date, Kansas has lost more than \$1.7 billion of its own tax dollars by not expanding KanCare. A live ticker demonstrating what inaction has cost Kansas is online at [www.kha-net.org](http://www.kha-net.org).

It is clear the time to act is now and Kansas hospitals hope Governor Brownback will join with the Kansas Senate and House of Representatives, hundreds of Kansas organizations, and more than 82 percent of Kansans who support expanding KanCare. We can bring hundreds of millions of our tax dollars back to Kansas to create jobs, protect hospitals and communities, and provide coverage and care for more than 150,000 Kansans.

The Kansas Hospital Association is a voluntary, non-profit organization existing to be the leading advocate and resource for members. KHA membership includes 219 member facilities, of which 127 are full-service, community hospitals. Founded in 1910, KHA’s vision is *Optimal Health for Kansas*.