



# **STATEMENT**

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## **Kansas Hospitals Weigh in on Senate Health Care Bill** *Statement on the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017*

(June 22, 2017) Access to health care coverage is essential to Kansas hospitals and the patients they serve. Unfortunately, the draft legislation under discussion in the Senate moves in the opposite direction, particularly for our most vulnerable patients. The Senate proposal would likely trigger deep cuts to the Medicaid program that covers thousands of Kansans with chronic conditions such as cancer, along with the elderly and individuals with disabilities who need long-term services and support. Medicaid cuts of this magnitude are unsustainable and will increase costs to individuals with private insurance.

Additionally, this legislation would significantly disadvantage states like Kansas that have chosen not to adopt Medicaid expansion through the Affordable Care Act. This legislation rewards states that expanded Medicaid before this year with hundreds of billions of dollars that is simply unavailable to non-expansion states by virtue of rendering them ineligible to participate in the ongoing expansion program. In the future, no such state will be allowed to participate in expansion and the federal funds that go with it, but their residents will be forced to pay taxes that are then redistributed to the residents of expansion states. More specifically, this year a substantial majority of the Kansas legislature voted for Kansas to take advantage of this opportunity. This legislation takes this decision away from Kansas lawmakers. Additional funds that the legislation provides to close the gap that it creates are hugely inadequate, amounting to a mere nickel on the dollar in most cases.

We urge the Senate to go back to the drawing board and develop legislation that continues to provide coverage to all who currently have it.

The Kansas Hospital Association is a voluntary, non-profit organization existing to be the leading advocate and resource for members. KHA membership includes 212 member facilities, of which 127 are full-service, community hospitals. Founded in 1910, KHA's vision is: *"Optimal Health for Kansans."*