



MEDIA RELEASE

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(Photos enclosed)

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REP. CONCANNON AND HUNGERFORD AWARDED BY KANSAS HOSPITALS

Members of the Kansas Hospital Association will award Representative Susan Concannon with the Distinguished Health Care Advocate Award and Melissa Hungerford with the Donald A. Wilson Visionary Award at the KHA Annual Convention and Trade Show on Sept. 7 in Wichita.

Representative Susan Concannon, Beloit, will be recognized for her exemplary contribution to the health and well-being of the people of Kansas through her leadership in the political and policy arena.

Rep. Concannon is a champion of health care by leading the advancement of public policies that address and improve the Kansas health care system. Since being elected to the Kansas legislature in 2013, Rep. Concannon has risen through the leadership ranks to serve as the Majority Caucus Chair and the Vice Chair of the House Health and Human Services Committee. Soon after her election, Rep. Concannon quickly established herself as one of the foremost health care authorities in the Kansas Legislature. Her ability to build relationships and networks to create effective collaborative partnerships is impeccable. When faced with political challenges and obstacles, she overcomes the barriers and engages others to come together and cohesively make collaborative change for health. She stands up for what is best for patients and providers, regardless of the political consequences.

“Rep. Concannon has brought attention and education to many health care driven legislative bills. She not only engages and educates community members and her peers, but also gains support for policies that improve health and health care access for Kansans,” said Tom Bell, president and CEO of the Kansas Hospital Association.

Melissa Hungerford, former CEO, Kansas Hospital Education and Research Foundation, Topeka, will be recognized for her outstanding, innovative contribution to health care delivery, health care financing and other initiatives that improve health and clinical outcomes.

Hungerford served Kansas hospitals in numerous positions at KHA over a career of 38 years. In addition to her leadership of KHERF, she served as senior vice president of healthcare leadership for KHA where she supported the operations of the KHA Board, including strategic planning, rural health strategies, membership relations and policy development. She has inspired much of the work of KHERF, which provides scholarships and leadership in projects related to health care quality, workforce, rural health, emergency preparedness, health information technology and other topics as needed.

“Melissa’s vision to improve health care delivery in Kansas spans decades. Her recent leadership to ensure access to health services in rural communities has been recognized on a national level. Her collaborative work with hospitals on rural health visioning and new models for health delivery in rural communities is unparalleled,” said Bell.

The Kansas Hospital Association is a voluntary, non-profit organization existing to be the leading advocate and resource for members. KHA membership includes 215 member facilities, of which 127 are full-service, community hospitals. Founded in 1910, KHA’s vision is: “Optimal Health for Kansans.”

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