



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**  
*(Photo attached)*

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### **SENATOR VICKI SCHMIDT AWARDED BY KANSAS HOSPITALS**

Senator Vicki Schmidt has been named the 2018 Kansas Hospital Association Distinguished Health Care Advocate. She was honored by members of the Kansas Hospital Association at the KHA Annual Convention and Trade Show in Overland Park on Sept. 6.

The Kansas Hospital Association Board of Directors established this award to recognize individuals, organizations or groups who provide exemplary contribution to the health and well-being of the people of Kansas through their leadership in the political or policy arena.

Senator Schmidt has worked for more than 40 years, serving Kansas families and seniors as a local pharmacist. It was her pharmacy experience and her commitment to bettering Kansas that drew her to run for the Legislature. As a pharmacist, she found errors in the Kansas Medical Assistance Program, errors that were costing the state millions of dollars. She became a voice for reform – speaking up about ways Medicaid could be more cost-effective in its drug rebate program and implementing her plan, which resulted in more than \$391 million in recouped dollars for the state.

Senator Schmidt brought her expertise to the Legislature and currently serves as the chair of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee. As a State Senator, she fought to protect

Medicare for Kansas seniors and voted to ensure Kansas families could count on insurance companies to cover the critical treatments needed for children diagnosed with autism.

Importantly, she has led the fight for KanCare expansion in the Kansas Senate. She also carried legislation in the Kansas Senate to implement numerous much needed reforms in the KanCare program. And, just this year, she laid the groundwork and championed the four percent increase in Medicaid rates—the first rate increase in years.

“Quite simply, Senator Schmidt has established herself as one of the foremost health care authorities in any elected office. At every turn, she has been a tireless advocate for measures to improve the Kansas health care system. Most importantly, she has steadfastly stood up for what is best for patients and providers, regardless of the political consequences,” said Tom Bell, president and CEO of the Kansas Hospital Association.

The Kansas Hospital Association is a voluntary, non-profit organization existing to be the leading advocate and resource for members. KHA membership includes 223 member facilities, of which 124 are full-service, community hospitals. Founded in 1910, KHA’s vision is: “Optimal Health for Kansans.”

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