



Kansas Hospital
ASSOCIATION

Media Statement

January 29, 2019

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With broad support from Kansans, new KanCare Expansion legislation is introduced

The Kansas Hospital Association is pleased with today's introduction of KanCare Expansion legislation in the House and Senate. It is an important first step in the process, and we look forward to robust conversations about the benefits KanCare Expansion will bring to Kansas.

Expanding KanCare makes health care coverage affordable for approximately 150,000 hardworking, low-income Kansans. It also is a critical tool that will help increase access to much needed mental health and substance use disorder services. Data show states that have expanded Medicaid have increased access to important preventive care and improved chronic disease management.

According to the most recent polling, 77 percent of Kansans support expanding KanCare because they understand how it protects our local communities and hospitals while strengthening our local and state economies. KanCare expansion will help every single Kansas community.

The KanCare Expansion legislation that was introduced today is similar to legislation that previously passed in the Kansas Legislature with substantial majorities but was ultimately vetoed by then-Gov. Sam Brownback.

Kansas is one of just 14 remaining states that have not yet expanded health care to individuals and families who desperately need it. We've seen Republican- and Democratic-led states across the country reach consensus on Medicaid expansion to benefit their citizens, communities and economies. It's time we do the same in Kansas.

This new legislation is based upon what has worked in other states and what makes sense for our state. KHA urges legislators to take up the issue and put together a bipartisan, pragmatic, Kansas plan to improve access to care for tens of thousands of Kansans. Through this process, our elected leaders can finally put our state in the position of receiving its fair share of federal funds.

The Kansas Hospital Association is a voluntary, non-profit organization existing to be the leading advocate and resource for members. KHA membership includes 226 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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