

KanCare Expansion Messaging Summary - January 2022

Costs are rising and Kansans are paying more to take care of themselves and provide for their families. Health care is no exception. It's time to help Kansans get more for their money when it comes to health care and bringing good-paying jobs to our state.

Expanding KanCare will reduce health care costs for everyone by providing health insurance to 150,000 residents in rural areas, small towns, and cities across the state. Expanding KanCare will provide coverage to hardworking Kansans and result in much-needed investments in our communities to strengthen our hospitals, clinics, and provider networks. It will also make Kansas more competitive with neighboring states that have expanded Medicaid, protecting jobs and ensuring Kansas continues to be a good place to live, work and raise a family.

Now is the time to invest in our state and ensure that Kansans have access to the care they need when they need it. Now is the time to expand KanCare, or all of us will keep paying the price.

Expanding KanCare will:

- **Reduce health care costs for everyone.** Every Kansan is paying the price for not expanding KanCare. When low-wage Kansans can't get health coverage that means more in ER bills, increased uncompensated care for hospitals, and untreated mental and physical health needs. This means individuals, families, and businesses all end up paying more for health care. Expanding KanCare will bring the cost of health care down for everyone.
- **Protect Kansans from medical debt.** People all over the state feel the effects of rising costs for housing, food, and other needs, including health care. Almost half of Kansans have medical debt or know someone who does. By expanding KanCare, tens of thousands of people will be able to afford insurance coverage. That protects them from medical debt, so they can use those savings to pay for other essentials.
- **Fix eligibility limits, which are currently too low.** The income limit to qualify for KanCare is less than \$8,345 a year for a family of three, which is less than \$4 per hour. Expanding KanCare would raise the income eligibility limits so that more hardworking Kansans who contribute to the economy can get the health care they need for themselves and their families.
- **Preserves and strengthens rural health care.** Kansans in our rural communities already have a hard time accessing health care when and where they need it and rural health care providers face high levels of uncompensated care. Seventy rural hospitals are currently at risk of closing across our state, more than any other state our size. Expanding KanCare would strengthen and sustain the rural health care system and help ensure rural Kansans get the health care they need while giving a boost to their economies.
- **Make Kansas more economically competitive.** Expanding KanCare would increase the state's economic output by \$17 billion and increase the personal income of Kansans by \$6.3 billion over the next three years. Expanding KanCare will not only improve the health of Kansans, but it will also help our state compete with our neighbors who have expanded eligibility for their Medicaid programs.

The overwhelming majority of Kansans want low-wage families to have access to KanCare for coverage they can count on if they are not offered health insurance through a job or cannot afford to buy it on their own.

In fact, more than 8 in 10 voters want their elected officials to vote to expand KanCare and the same margin want any Kansas politician who stands in the way of expanding KanCare to publicly explain their reasons for refusing to expand. Kansans want a long-term solution for the health care coverage gap. Let's expand KanCare now.

