



THE CIVIC COUNCIL OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

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January 21, 2020

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 252
Senate Health and Public Welfare Committee

I am writing on behalf of the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City to express our support for your consideration of Senate Bill 252. The Civic Council is a membership organization of chief executive officers of the larger companies in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Many of our members live and have companies in Kansas.

We commend Governor Kelly and Senate Majority Leader Denning for this bipartisan effort to expand Medicaid in Kansas. A healthy workforce is a prerequisite for our economic success. We believe the expansion of KanCare is an economic development issue that affects not only the business community but also the state. Individuals who are ill and unable to seek treatment are often unable to work, or work productively, resulting in further losses to the state in taxes it forgoes and other services that must be subsidized.

We encourage you to give favorable consideration of SB 252, making it possible to take a first step to developing a uniquely Kansas approach to address the healthcare needs of its residents. Delays only increase the number of Kansans who will face lifelong difficulties because they could not obtain healthcare now, and will further deteriorate their ability to work, care for their families and pay the taxes the state needs.

Sincerely,

Bill Gautreaux
Chair, Civic Council of Greater Kansas City