



Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

January 17, 2020

Presented by:
Dr. Sherrie Vaughn, Ed. D.
Executive Director

NAMI Kansas is the state organization of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, a grassroots organization whose members are individuals living with mental illnesses and their family members who provide care and support.

NAMI Kansas supports Senate Bill No. 252 as introduced so that more than 21,000 uninsured Kansans who experience mental illness, approximately 13 percent of the overall uninsured population in the state,¹ can access mental health care and treatment when they need it. Medicaid expansion increases opportunities for access to treatment, thus, decreasing the risks for hospitalization² while increasing utilization of community-based services.³

NAMI Kansas supports a full Medicaid Expansion to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level with a 90/10 match, to be effective no later than January 1, 2021.

NAMI Kansas supports a reinsurance program requiring the Kansas Insurance Department to complete an actuarial study of the reinsurance proposal and submit to the State Finance Council.

NAMI Kansas supports the Medicaid Funding to include an annual hospital Medicaid expansion support surcharge of up to \$35 million to be effective July 1, 2021 and no tax increase requirement.

NAMI Kansas supports a work referral program that promotes self-reliance for non-working Medicaid beneficiaries, including a modest contribution from the Medicaid enrollee for health services through monthly premiums and the hardship provision.

NAMI Kansas supports the creation of an advisory committee within the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to support rural hospitals in assessing viability and identifying new delivery models, strategic partnerships, and implementing financial and delivery system reform to improve health of rural communities.

The overall impact of Medicaid Expansion for Kansans is a gain for the State of Kansas. Senate Bill No. 252 supports our commitment to improve the health care of this vulnerable population of individuals while encouraging and promoting self-reliance and a hand up. On behalf of NAMI Kansas and for those in which we advocate and support, I urge you to pass Senate Bill No. 252.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information to the Committee.

Sincerely,

Dr Sherrie Vaughn, Ed D.

Dr. Sherrie Vaughn, Ed. D.
Executive Director
NAMI Kansas

¹ National Alliance on Mental Illness, *Medicaid Expansion and Mental Health Care*, 2013.

² McAlpine, D.D. (2000). Utilization of Specialty Mental Health Care Among Persons with Severe Mental Illness: The Roles of Demographics, Need, Insurance, and Risk. *Health Services Research*. 35.1

³ Yanos, P.T., et al. Correlates of Health Insurance Among Persons with Schizophrenia in a Statewide Behavioral Health Care System. *Psychiatric Services*, 55(1).