

Testimony on:

House Bill 2025

Presented to:

Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

By:

*Cathy Harding, Executive Director
Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved (KAMU)*

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For additional information contact:

KAMU • 1129 S Kansas Ave., Ste. B • Topeka, KS 66612 • (785) 233-8483

Madam Chairperson and Members of the Committee, I am Cathy Harding, Executive Director for the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved (KAMU). I appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 2025 – An Act Establishing the Robert G. (Bob) Bethell joint committee on home and community based services and KanCare oversight.

KAMU has been the Primary Care Association of Kansas for 23 years. As the Primary Care Association, KAMU represents 45 primary care safety net clinics that all share the same mission of providing health care services without regard for the patients' ability to pay. KAMU and our members believe Kansas should be a state where all individuals have access to comprehensive, affordable and quality health care. Our 45 member Safety Net Clinics along with their 40 additional satellite sites provide Kansans a total of 85 access points.

As stated in HB 2025 the joint committee “shall monitor and study the state Medicaid programs, including but not limited to, access to and quality of services provided”. Thirty-six of KAMU's member clinics serve Medicaid patients, thus we support the establishment of an oversight committee. One of KAMU's three issues on our legislative platform is to “support the successful implement and expansion of KanCare.” KAMU staff continues to work with health center providers, Kansas Department of Health and Environment staff and the three Managed Care Organizations to resolve concerns and issues as they arise.

Creating a joint KanCare oversight committee will provide the Kansas legislature with an established committee to request, review and analyze KanCare data and to propose solutions to problems should they arise. This committee will continue to assure accountability and transparency for the public, stakeholders and Medicaid consumers.

Thank you for this opportunity to support HB 2025.