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**TESTIMONY BEFORE
SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

**OPPONENT
SENATE BILL 300**

January 30, 2018

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

I am Chris Coffey, President & CEO of Sunflower Health Plan. We serve 130,000 Kansans through the KanCare program. Under stringent quality criteria, we regularly meet or exceed federal and state benchmarks for the improvement of health and quality of life outcomes. This is accomplished through collaborative partnerships with providers and agency partners to engage our membership in proven, integrated care strategies.

Sunflower is testifying in opposition to Senate Bill 300, in particular the proposed 1-year extension, because of the ambiguity this timeline would bring to program beneficiaries awaiting stability in their healthcare program. Recognizing the changes that need to be implemented to improve KanCare, beneficiaries deserve definite and sustainable solutions that give them confidence in the services available to them. The timeline associated with a 1-year extension will especially cause concern for members in disease case management and home- and community-based service coordination.

A 1-year extension of the current contract will require a CMS approval process that could span longer than a year, thus prolonging the uncertainty and confusion for members relying on their KanCare services.

Further, this bill will limit KanCare program administrators from making appropriate and time-sensitive improvements that members and advocates have requested, in particular, increasing stability for children in foster care, requesting the IMD exclusion waiver to keep treatment options available for members with substance use and mental health disorders, and integrating behavioral health services into the primary care setting.

We respectfully ask the Legislature to take into consideration the burden that the proposed 1-year extension will place on KanCare beneficiaries who are working to navigate their benefits and, like many Sunflower members, have made strides in meeting their personal health goals. I appreciate the opportunity today to advocate for our members, and I look forward to working with you to identify a solution giving Kansas families the advantage of certainty in their care coordination.