The Honorable Vicki Schmidt, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Statehouse, Room 441-E
Topeka, Kansas  66612

Dear Senator Schmidt:

SUBJECT:    Revised Fiscal Note for SB 38 by Senate Committee on Ways and Means

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following revised fiscal note concerning SB 38 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 38 would establish the KanCare Bridge to a Healthy Kansas Program. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) would administer and promote the program and provide information to potential eligible individuals who live in medically underserved areas of Kansas. The bill would expand Medicaid services under certain eligibility limitations to adult applicants under 65 years of age, who are not pregnant and whose income does not exceed 133.0 percent of the federal poverty level. The bill would include the following:

1. KDHE would refer all non-disabled adults in the program who are unemployed or working less than 20 hour a week to the state’s existing workforce training programs and other work search resources;

2. KDHE could establish a health insurance coverage premium assistance program for individuals at 133.0 percent of the federal income poverty level and for those who are eligible for employer health insurance coverage but cannot afford the premiums;

3. The KanCare Bridge to a Healthy Kansas Program Drug Rebate Fund and the KanCare Bridge to a Healthy Kansas Program Privilege Fee Fund would be created in the state treasury. Drug rebates and privilege fees resulting from the bridge program beneficiaries would be deposited in the new funds and could only be spent on assistance payments for the bridge program beneficiaries.
4. On or before the first day of the regular session of the Legislature each year, KDHE would deliver a report that summarizes the cost savings achieved during the previous year. Cost savings would be determined by calculating the cost of beneficiaries if services were provided through the KanCare program less the cost of services provided to beneficiaries under the KanCare Bridge to a Healthy Kansas Program.

5. A working group would be established to identify non-State General Fund sources to fund any shortfall identified by the Secretary of KDHE. The group would include six legislators and a representative from each of the following groups: the Kansas Hospital Association, the Kansas Medical Society; Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved; the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians; the Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas; the Kansas Dental Association; the Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association; the Kansas Optometric Association; the Kansas Pharmacist’s Association; and, the KanCare Bridge to a Healthy Kansas Program. The group would meet at least twice per year, and report to the Legislature annually on March 15.

6. The staff of the Kansas Legislative Research Department would provide assistance as requested by the working group. Legislative members would receive compensation, subsistence and travel allowances. Non-legislative members would not receive compensation, subsistence or travel allowances.

7. If, at any point, the percentages of federal medical assistance available to the program for coverage of program participants described in section 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(VIII) of the federal Social Security Act are less than the percentages provided for in section 1201 (b)(1)(A) through (E) of the federal Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, as it exists on the effective date of this act, KDHE would terminate the program over a 12-month period.

The expanded Medicaid eligibility in SB 38 would take effect on January 1, 2019. As a result, the fiscal effect estimates in this note are for one half of FY 2019. KDHE indicates that passage of the bill would assume costs and offsets associated with an additional 150,000 individuals becoming eligible for Medicaid coverage. Any savings to the state would be realized through a higher Federal match rate for certain populations within Medicaid. The Department indicates that additional revenues would not fully offset the Medicaid expansion costs over time. KDHE estimates that the cost of care for the newly eligible beneficiaries would be $461.4 million in FY 2019. The state share at 7.0 percent would be $34.7 million. The cost of care for the newly eligible beneficiaries in FY 2020 would be $1,004.8 million, including the state share at 10.0 percent of $100.5 million. If the Affordable Care Act enhanced federal match for Medicaid expansion was not available and Kansas’ regular state share of approximately 45.0 percent was required for these new beneficiaries, the additional cost to the State General Fund would be $223.3 million in FY 2019 and $452.1 million in FY 2020.
KDHE estimates additional revenue of $2.1 million in FY 2019 and $4.4 million in FY 2020 from increased drug rebates. This additional revenue would be used to meet state share requirements. KDHE estimates additional revenue of $28.6 million in FY 2019 and $57.6 million in FY 2020 from 5.77 percent Privilege Fee. This additional revenue would also be used to meet state share requirements. Healthcare cost savings that would be realized for certain populations are also included in the estimate. These savings total $14.1 million in FY 2019 and $25.9 million in FY 2020.

KDHE states that because it cannot estimate how many of the newly eligible beneficiaries would also be eligible for the premium assistance program in SB 38 and because the provision is permissive, an estimate for a premium assistance program has not been provided. The agency does state that because new tracking systems would have to be developed and maintained for such a program, the additional administrative costs would likely be substantial.

The bill would also result in increased administrative costs. KDHE would require the addition of 115.0 FTE positions, the majority of which would be eligibility staff and support staff. The cost of the three Medicaid support contracts, which include Hewlett Packard Enterprises (HPE), Accenture LLP and Policy Studies Inc. would also increase. Total additional administrative costs are estimated at $11.5 million in FY 2019 and $18.6 million in FY 2020. The state share of those administration expenditures is approximately $5.7 million for FY 2019 and $9.3 million for FY 2020.

The Department of Corrections (DOC) states that when an inmate is hospitalized for longer than 24 hours the Medicaid inmate exclusion rule does not apply. Therefore, some of these inmates could be Medicaid eligible on a fee-for-service basis. DOC currently estimates approximately $2.0 million in State General Fund expenditures for these hospitalizations in FY 2019. If half of those inmates were Medicaid eligible under the provisions of SB 38, DOC would realize savings of approximately $930,000 from the State General Fund in FY 2019 and $900,000 in FY 2020 and FY 2021. This estimate equates to the enhanced federal match that could be drawn down. These savings would be reduced over time as the enhanced federal match is reduced. DOC would, however, have increased administrative costs that would reduce the savings. DOC would need additional FTE positions to determine eligibility and process claims. The current estimate for increased administration is $300,000, which will include $150,000 from the State General Fund and 3.00 additional FTE positions.

The Department for Children and Families (DCF) states that SB 38 would result in additional costs through increased referrals to its Generating Opportunities to Attain Lifelong Success Program (GOALS). The GOALS Program is a time-limited, federally funded program scheduled to end in January 2019. The grant was awarded based on an established caseload. Referrals resulting from SB 38 would increase the number of participants beyond the budgeted amount. Following completion of the pilot program, results from Kansas and other states will be evaluated and continuing federal funding is not certain. DCF assumes for purposes of this fiscal note that no federal funding will be available and any additional costs would be funded through the State General Fund.
Based on KDHE estimates for additional Medicaid recipients and assumptions regarding the bill’s requirements for referral to the GOALS Program, DCF estimated additional program participants of at least 1,372 in FY 2019, 3,026 in FY 2020 and 3,336 in FY 2021. Assistance costs for these new participants are estimated at $235,256 in FY 2019, $1,089,834 in FY 2020 and $1,261,295 in FY 2021. Also, to meet the needs of the increased caseload DCF would require 29.00 additional FTE positions in FY 2019 and 64.00 additional FTE positions in FY 2020 and subsequent years. Salaries, benefits, and other operating costs to support the additional FTE are estimated at $1,145,580 in FY 2019, $3,949,698 in FY 2020 and $3,974,201 in FY 2021. Therefore, the total estimated fiscal effect for DCF would be $1,380,836 ($235,256 + $1,145,580) in FY 2019, $5,039,532 ($1,089,834 + $3,949,698) in FY 2020 and $5,235,496 ($1,261,295 + $3,974,201) in FY 2021.

Kansas Legislative Services estimates that legislative compensation, subsistence and travel costs would total $6,815 from the State General Fund for FY 2019 for the legislative working group. The Department of Commerce states that it anticipates no fiscal effect for the agency from SB 38.

The total estimated State General Fund fiscal effect for KDHE, DCF, DOC and Legislative Services resulting from enactment of SB 38 would be an expenditure reduction of $4.0 million in FY 2019. For FY 2020, the State General Fund expenditures would be increased by $26.0 million. Additional State General Fund expenditures would continue to increase in the out years. The Division of the Budget notes that over the period of FY 2019 through FY 2023 enactment of SB 38 would increase State General Fund expenditures by $103.9 million. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 38 is not reflected in The FY 2019 Governor’s Budget Report.

Sincerely,

Larry L. Campbell
Chief Budget Officer

cc: Dan Thimmesch, Health & Environment
    Cody Gwaltney, Aging & Disability Services
    Jackie Aubert, Children & Families