



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2050

February 9, 2023

Chair Landwehr & Members of the House Health & Human Services Committee:

The Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (KAAP) represents more than 450 pediatricians in Kansas. The KAAP has the fundamental goal that all children and adolescents in Kansas have the opportunity to grow safe and strong. It is with this goal in mind that we want to share our support for HB 2050, a common-sense technical fix bill that addresses a mistake in statute dating back to 2008. The bill corrects the issue so that Kansas is back in alignment with federal regulations for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Established in 1997 with bipartisan support, CHIP provides access to healthcare for low-income children by providing well child checks and vaccinations.

All children in Kansas deserve access to quality health care and HB 2050 is important for providing that access. The bill removes the erosion of the eligibility threshold for CHIP. Current Kansas statute has CHIP eligibility tied to the 2008 federal poverty level. It is supposed to be 250% of FPL, but with the 2008 year reference in statute, in 2021, this translates now to 225% of FPL; the percentage will continue to decrease each year until this problem is fixed. This bill eliminates that language and fixes this issue.

According to KHI 2019 population estimates, there were an estimated 47,063 Kansas children under age 19 with family income between 225 and 250% FPL. The estimate is based on the U.S. Census Bureau 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) file.

Additionally, HB 2050 Removes a waiting period clause that is out of alignment with federal regulations. Current federal regulations allow for waiting periods of no more than three months for the CHIP program. In 2019, Kansas submitted a state plan amendment (SPA) to eliminate the waiting period for CHIP. This bill puts our statute back in alignment with the regulatory change.

Thank you for your time and consideration in supporting HB 2050 that will increase access to health care for our children in Kansas.

Respectfully submitted,

Dena Hubbard, MD, FAAP
Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Public Policy Chair