



January 21, 2020

Chairman Suellentrop and Honorable Members of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee,

The Chambers of Commerce of Manhattan, Emporia, Topeka, and Lawrence (METL) urge you to approve Senate Bill 252 and expand Medicaid in Kansas.

In the past five years, 36 states have adopted Medicaid expansion. States like Louisiana, Montana, Michigan, and Arkansas have evaluated the economic impacts since expansion and have found it to create economic growth, new jobs, and gains in household income. Meanwhile, Kansans have already lost nearly \$4 billion of our tax dollars that could have been used to insure more Kansans and grow state revenue, an amount that grows by \$1.8 million *every day*.

Without Medicaid expansion, the uninsured will continue to seek access to healthcare through emergency room visits, leading to increased costs for Kansas hospitals and *all* Kansas taxpayers. As evidenced by recent hospital closures, it is not sustainable for Kansas hospitals to continue to provide hundreds of millions of dollars in services with no reimbursement.

The four Chambers that make up the METL Coalition represent more than 3,000 Kansas businesses. We believe that improved access to health care will have a positive effect on health and labor force participation, fueling employment and economic growth for the state.

Please vote in favor of Medicaid expansion by supporting Senate Bill 252.

Respectfully,

METL - The Chambers of Commerce of Manhattan, Emporia, Topeka, and Lawrence