

To: Senate Committee on Health and Public Welfare
From: Kendal Francis, City Administrator, Great Bend, Kansas
Date: Friday, January 21, 2020
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB 252

Dear Chairman Suellentrop:

I am writing to give the City of Great Bend's full support to SB 252, which provide for Medicaid expansion.

Hospitals are a life blood to the communities and surrounding areas they serve. We believe this is key legislation which will help strengthen rural hospitals, and stem the tide of their closings.

The bill is very complex. However, there are two sections which are key to cities and we strongly urge the committee ensure that these provisions remain intact as the bill progresses.

The first is Section 16. This section makes arrangements for setting up a rural hospital transformation program that would flow from a strategic plan developed by the Department of Health and Environment working through an advisory committee with stakeholders including the Kansas Hospitals Association.

The second is Section 11. Medical care for prisoners can be an overwhelming burden on local governments. This section provides a mechanism that would ensure prisoners, incarcerated in county jails, who are eligible for coverage under Medicaid expansion, do receive this coverage, if they receive in-patient treatment at a medical facility. Thus, it would help alleviate the financial burden to the local government.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to fully support SB 252.

Sincerely,



Kendal Francis
City Administrator