



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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Testimony of Franklin County Health Department to the
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
Proponent for SB 252 – January 17, 2020

Chairman Suellentrop and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for considering this testimony for SB 252 regarding Medicaid expansion. We are proponents of this bill as we see the effects on both individuals and our community at large when those with limited incomes are unable to obtain medical care. Expanding Medicaid eligibility speaks to a culture in Kansas where health and the lives of all Kansans are valued and supported.

Our primary role as a public health department is to prevent disease and protect the community from illness and injury. In our efforts to promote healthful behaviors we have seen individuals refuse vaccinations or to see a doctor for influenza or other life threatening diseases because of lack of ability to pay. The fewer people we vaccinate or treat the greater the risk for disease transmission and a widespread disease outbreak across our community. Helping an adult with medical or dental issues may be the one step it takes for them to be hired and provide support for his or her family. When hardworking Kansans with limited income must choose between food for their family and seeing a doctor or dentist we have failed them as a society. These are the cases we see regularly in our health department.

Four thousand of our friends and neighbors in Franklin County do not have medical insurance. We have seen them go bankrupt, lose jobs, and suffer greatly for lack of care. As a health department, we do all we can to assist everyone in our county obtain better health and the care they need. Limited resources create barriers to fully serving our taxpayers. Please consider thoughtfully the benefits of Medicaid expansion in SB 252; a bill Franklin County Health Department fully supports.

To Your Good Health,

Mary "Midge" Ransom, Director