

Kansas AFL-CIO

2131 S.W. 36th St.

Topeka, KS 66611

785/267-0100

Fax 785/267-2775



President
Tony Spicer

Executive Secretary
Treasurer
Andy Sanchez

Executive Vice
President
John Nave

Executive Board

*J.J. Adams
Robert Bausch
Kevin Bayless
Brian Burnett
Joe Blanco
Robert Cammarn
Frank Carpenter
Tony Delich
Mark Dominguez
John Garretson
Casey Jensen
Mike Kane
Donna Lehane
Mark Love
Kevin McClain
Ron Perry
Dennis Phillips
Emil Ramirez
Randy Stithem
Steve Wentz*

Date: January 23, 2020

To: Chairman Suellentrop & The Senate Health and Welfare Committee

From: John Nave, Executive Vice-President Kansas AFL-CIO

Re: Senate Bill 252

The AFL-CIO recognizes the value in expanding Medicaid to Kansans and stands in strong support of this initiative.

While most of the members of the AFL-CIO have insurance, too many working Kansans are not afforded these benefits on the job. They're working for less than a livable wage.

The working men and women of our state should not be denied basic healthcare services because they can't afford insurance. There are many Kansans working two and three jobs to feed and provide for their families, yet they can't see the doctor for a persistent pain in their chest or unexplained bruising because they don't have the money.

So, they keep working, praying every night that something isn't wrong with them.

For too many of those uninsured, something has been wrong – small, easy to fix ailments that treated at the onset would allow them to return to work- but left untreated, balloon to major health crises that in too many instances, lead to total disability, job loss, bankruptcy, and yes even death.

This is not what America promised to its hardworking men and women. Those who toll each day to perform their jobs deserve an opportunity to see the doctor.

We must expand KanCare and give our working class the opportunity to improve and maintain their health, and hopefully, advance to positions where KanCare subsidies won't be required. This can't happen without the action by our elected leaders.

Let's cross the finish line and win together for all Kansans, I urge the committee to come together and move KanCare into Action. It's time.

