



Promoting and Improving Population Health in Kansas

January 17, 2020
Daniel Craig, President
Kansas Public Health Association
Senate Bill 252
Committee on Public Health and Welfare

Chairman Suellentrop and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to write in support of SB252. KPHA strongly supports SB252, the Medicaid Expansion Bipartisan Compromise, as the best path forward. We believe that increasing health care coverage will support both individuals, the health of the public and the health of the health care system in Kansas.

Promoting health and preventing disease and injury is the cornerstone of public health and many sectors and levels in our society play a role in public health activity. While direct clinical services are often what people think about when speaking to the benefits of Medicaid expansion, there are many other downstream benefits that are often overlooked. For example, just having access to an insurance policy removes a barrier often preventing parents and caregivers from seeking preventive health services and early health care which reduces the complications and downstream costs to them and society. It also helps to establish care relationships with a single provider, something that has long proved to be one of the most effective means to improve outcomes and lower costs of care.

KPHA is a professional association for Kansas public health practitioners, professionals, and advocates. As a voice for public health, KPHA provides a forum for individuals and organizations to work collectively to assure conditions in which Kansans' lives will be healthy.

(Disclaimer: All comments listed here may not necessarily reflect the views of each KPHA member.)