



1/23/2020

Mercy & Truth Medical Missions

**TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF SENATE BILL 252
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE**

CHAIRMAN SUELLENTROP AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE,

My name is Geoffrey Kigenyi. As the Executive Director of Mercy and Truth Medical Missions – a safety net clinic providing health care for the uninsured and underserved in Wyandotte and Johnson County, I support the bipartisan compromise KanCare expansion plan and urge you to pass SB 252 out of committee as written.

Mercy and Truth has provided health care for the uninsured and underserved in our community since 1994. Fifty percent of our patients do not have any health insurance. The top 3 diagnosed conditions in our patient population are: Diabetes, Hypertension and Anxiety/Depression. Our patients face multiple challenges in navigating the health care system. I would like to highlight two of those challenges:

1. **Delay of care:** Many of our patients especially those who suffer from chronic conditions tend to delay their visit to the clinic because of lack of insurance. A family of 4 living on an income of \$25,000/year barely has any money left to pay for healthcare after paying for housing and food. As a result, simple health issues are ignored until they become major conditions such as uncontrolled blood pressure and uncontrolled blood sugar. This is partly why those two conditions rank high in our most diagnosed conditions at our clinic.
2. **Unfilled Prescriptions:** One in three uninsured patients at our clinic struggle to fill their prescriptions due to lack of insurance. This means that many of these patients are not getting the medicine they need to treat their illness.

I think that the bipartisan compromise KanCare expansion bill is a good policy for a stronger, healthier Kansas. The two issues I have pointed out above can easily be addressed by expanding Kancare to more people in our community. Access to health insurance will help many of our patients stop delaying care and also provide access to prescription drugs for those who need them.

It's important that low-income people in our community get the healthcare they need to keep working and taking care of their families.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Geoffrey Kigenyi, MSOD
Executive Director

Wellness Center
721 N. 31st Street
Kansas City, KS 66102
Phone (913) 621-0074
Fax (913) 621-1996

11644 W 75th St Suite 103
Shawnee, KS 66214
Phone (913) 248-9965
Fax (913) 248-1910

Le Maison Bleu
Nouakchott, Mauritania, West Africa