



**Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee  
Testimony Opposing Senate Bill 252  
Presented by Kristi Brown, Senior Director of Government Affairs**

Thursday, January 30, 2020

Chairman Suellentrop, members of the committee, my name is Kristi Brown, Senior Director of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber of Commerce. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 252.

This committee has committed an enormous amount of time to listen to the concerns and needs of Kansans and their access to health insurance, you have heard about the estimates of cost and coverage gaps, and you have patiently listened to predictions of the number of additional people that will be covered and the costs associated if the legislature decides to expand Medicaid coverage in our state.

The Kansas Chamber's legislative agenda for both this session and last has stated our opposition to Medicaid Expansion. We are gravely concerned about the long-term financial impact to the state budget and the lack of work requirements for able bodied adults.

Historically, many of States that have chosen to expand Medicaid underestimated the number citizens added to their rolls resulting in unanticipated, additional costs to the states. In listening to the proponent testimony last week, I was shocked to hear two different organizations that represent businesses in the northeast corner of our State promote the idea that Medicaid Expansion would be good for businesses because some employees would be able to leave their employers healthcare plans for a state taxpayer funded Medicaid program. This is a shocking statement and not one that is supported by the over 500 members of the Kansas Chamber.

The Kansas Chamber asks that the Public Health and Welfare Committee not Support SB252 in its current form. The goals of saving rural hospitals, improving mental health care, and ensuring that Kansas better cares for its fragile and disabled populations are not achieved with this bill and the possible unintended consequences are dire.

We thank you for the opportunity to offer opponent testimony to SB252 and I am happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.