

Kansas Advocacy Issue

KanCare Expansion

Action Needed

We urge legislators to take action on KanCare Expansion and support a bipartisan, pragmatic Kansas plan improving access to care for tens of thousands of Kansans and finally put the state in the position of receiving its fair share of federal funds.

KanCare expansion is a critical issue for the health of Kansans and the health care industry. At present, thirty-eight states and the District of Columbia either have implemented or are moving toward expansion.

The Kansas Hospital Association believes a sensible Kansas-based solution is needed—a solution that will bring hundreds of millions of federal tax dollars back home to Kansas – creating jobs, boosting the economy and improving the health of Kansans.

Expanding KanCare assists approximately 150,000 Kansans who need access to affordable health care coverage. Many expansion eligibles earn too much to qualify for KanCare but too little to be eligible to receive financial assistance to purchase private insurance in the marketplace. Without regular care, the uninsured often wait until their health concerns need emergency care, which comes at a higher cost to all of us. Further, recent studies link Medicaid expansion to fewer opioid overdose deaths, better postpartum care, and lower rates of mental and physical health declines.

In addition, Kansas hospitals need to maintain a dedicated and innovative workforce. As we have seen surrounding states implement expansion, there is a workforce development concern that health care staff will leave Kansas to serve in other communities. This could become a significant problem for Kansas hospitals.

We've seen Republican and Democratic-led states across the country find consensus on Medicaid expansion to benefit their citizens, communities and economies. It's time we do the same in Kansas.

Bottom Line:

Expansion programs have been shown to give states enormous benefits, including: saving money by offering preventative care, increasing postpartum wellness, curbing opioid deaths, and attracting and retaining qualified health care professionals.



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