

Kansas Advocacy Issue

Hospitals and Health Care: Working for Kansas

Action Needed

Kansas hospitals and the health care sector benefit the financial health of our state. Policymakers should reject cuts that would harm the economy's health care sector, a sector that is creating thousands of jobs.

Although the connections between health care services and local economic development are often overlooked, at least three critical linkages must be highlighted. First, a robust health care system helps attract and maintain business and industry growth, attracts and retains retirees, and creates jobs in communities. A vigorous and sustainable health care system is essential not only for the health and welfare of community residents but also to enhance economic opportunity.

According to a report from the Office of Local Government, K-State Research and Extension, Kansas hospitals employ nearly 100,000 people or 5 percent of all job holders in the state. The entire health sector in Kansas employs 240,000 people or 12 percent of all job holders in the state. The report calculated economic multipliers (ripple effects) and estimated hospitals account for 94,000 additional jobs throughout all businesses and industries in the state.

As hospitals expand, they provide additional employment opportunities and generate economic activity and income in other sectors of the economy. The report found Kansas hospitals generate approximately \$7.5 billion in direct total income to the Kansas economy each year. For every \$1 of income generated by hospitals, another 63 cents was generated in other businesses and industries. Thus, hospitals had an estimated total impact on income throughout all business and industry of nearly \$12.3 billion.

Kansas hospitals believe supporting increased investment in areas of our economy that are poised for growth is a smart move. Increasing demand for health care services requires new health care infrastructure and additional education and training for more health care workers. Specific professions in demand and poised for growth in Kansas include registered nurses; medical records and health information technicians; physical, occupational and respiratory therapists; laboratory, radiologic and surgical technologists; pharmacists and pharmacy technicians; and physician assistants. There's never been a better time for educators, health care providers, technology developers and community leaders in Kansas to collaborate to strengthen employment opportunities in the state's health care system.

Bottom line:
Hospitals depend on reliable public funding sources to develop technology, raise community leaders and strengthen employment.



Tara Mays
Vice President State
Legislative Relations
tmays@kha-net.org
(785) 276-3124 (office)
(785) 969-9270 (cell)

Audrey Dunkel
Vice President
Government Relations
adunkel@kha-net.org
(785) 276-3116 (office)
(785) 221-8789 (cell)



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