1. Address workforce issues

**KEEP TELEHEALTH A VIABLE OPTION**
Telehealth reclaims time and health for Kansans and allows hospitals to stretch scarce clinical resources. Telehealth is:
- Improving access for urban and rural patients;
- Increasing continuity of care for chronic conditions;
- Limiting time away from work and family; and
- Decreasing costly emergency visits.

Policies protecting telehealth services include:
- Adding remote patient monitoring in the telehealth definition;
- Establishing equitable payment parameters;
- Differentiating in-state providers and out-of-state telehealth providers who don’t offer in-person services to Kansas patients;
- Providing audio-only options for those with limited broadband;
- Ensuring the platform investments are not duplicated;
- Protecting providers and patients choice in the use of telehealth; and
- Gathering data to determine future policies.

**PROTECTING HEALTH CARE WORKERS**
Turnover rates are jumping an average of 10 percent in various health care professions causing a staffing crisis. A significant contributing factor is workplace violence. KHA studies show 46.2 percent of hospitals report workplace violence with 71.2 percent being physical assaults.

*Support legislation protecting health care workers from assault and assist in workplace retention efforts.*

**340B PROGRAM PROTECTIONS**
Big pharmaceutical corporations, most out-of-state, are undermining the 340B Drug Program to bolster their bottom line, hurting the health and economy of Kansas.

Nearly 85 Kansas hospitals utilize the program to:
- Keep prescriptions affordable;
- Supplement community health resources
- Reduce emergency visits; and
- Keep workers with complex conditions in the workforce.

*Join 13 other states in setting contractual boundaries to protect the 340B program.*
2. Ensure better care

**IMPROVE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE**
Kansas must have a robust behavioral health care infrastructure. This includes:
- Targeted resources for patients before they are in crisis; and
- Sufficient crisis beds ensuring patients are not forced to wait hours or even days for an available bed.

**PASS KANCARE EXPANSION**
KanCare Expansion is a pragmatic solution that offsets uninsured medical care losses. KanCare Expansion:
- Provides access to affordable health care coverage for more than 150,000 Kansans;
- Reduces the financial burden of uncompensated care;
- Supports jobs in health care and other industries; and
- Entices health care workers to live and work in Kansas.

3. Reduce cost of care

**STREAMLINE PRIOR AUTHORIZATIONS**
Prior authorizations were originally intended to help control costs. They are now keeping patients from receiving critical care by drawing staff away from direct patient care to navigate this time-consuming process. On average, health care workers report up to 40 prior authorizations are needed per week, and may take up to 16 hours to complete each prior authorization. The increased administrative burden adds to the cost of care in Kansas.

**ELIMINATE WHITE BAGGING**
White bagging is a policy requiring hospitals administering medications to patients with complex medical conditions to receive the medications from a third party contracted with the health plan. This process creates issues with time and supply chain integrity, leading to tremendous waste, life-threatening delays and increased cost of care.

Support reforms that curb these unnecessary and costly practices.

Support policies that improve health care for vulnerable and at-risk Kansans.

---

**CONTACT**

Tara Mays
Vice President State Legislative Relations
(m) (785) 276-3124 (c) (785) 969-9270
Tmays@kha-net.org

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

The Kansas Hospital Association has identified three major areas where legislative support will transform, streamline and improve the health care industry: addressing workforce issues, ensuring better care and supporting policies reducing the cost of care.

We are asking you to champion an area where you can be a messenger of hope, a disruptor of the status quo and positive advocate for change to create a stronger health care system for all Kansans.