

RETAIN HEALTH CARE TALENT

1. **INCREASE** the penalties around assault and battery for a health care worker and **CREATE** the crime of interference with health care services to allow Kansas hospitals to seek justice for victims within a health care setting.



2. **ENSURE** transparency of staffing agencies so health care organizations can compete on a per employee basis.
3. **CONSIDER** contractual limitations regarding non-compete and buyout clauses for health care workers currently employed by staffing agencies.
4. **REQUIRE** direct care experience before being able to work for a staffing agency.



WORKPLACE VIOLENCE...

KHA studies suggest **46.2 percent** of hospitals report workplace violence, with **71.2 percent** of those being physical assaults against staff.

PROMOTE PIPELINE

1. **EXPAND** nursing and allied health programs that produce professionals to fill health care positions with extraordinary need.
2. **ATTRACT** more community and technical college health care educators by making compensation competitive with clinical industry levels.
3. **FOSTER and FUND** programs like HOSA Future Health Professional chapters that expose students to careers in health care.

REFORM STATE PROGRAMS

1. **LIMIT** prior authorizations from impeding necessary patient care by improving contracts, including KanCare MCO payers.
2. **ADDRESS** lagging rates that don't cover costs for the Medicaid population and consider coverage for individuals currently not qualified for the Medicaid program.
3. **IMPROVE** programs such as the state Rural Opportunity Zone to address areas of need in housing and childcare.

A quick guide
to the **2023**
Legislative
Priorities



Learn more:
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Kansas Hospital
ASSOCIATION

2023

PRIORITIES

INTRODUCTION

The Kansas Hospital Association has worked with hospital leaders, including clinical and medical staff, to identify the top areas that need legislative support. Action on the following priorities will transform, streamline and improve the health care industry.

Hospital vacancy rates reached historic highs in 2022, with more than 80 percent of Kansas counties reporting a primary health care workforce shortage. KHA wishes to partner with you on possible solutions.

Serve as an advocate for change to create a stronger health care system for all Kansans.



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STREAMLINE PROCESSES

1. **EXPEDITE** the licensing and credentialing process so that providers can get to work serving Kansas patients as quickly as possible.
2. **MODERNIZE** prior authorization processes that are antiquated and burdensome. The current process takes time away from providing patient care and slows patients from receiving the procedures they need to resume their lives.
3. **PROTECT** Kansans from the harmful impact of practices such as white-bagging.
4. **ENSURE** post-acute care and EMS facilities remain viable options to move patients along the appropriate continuum of care.



ON PRIOR AUTHORIZATIONS ...
Hospital staff in Kansas spend from **one to five hours on average** per prior authorization resulting in critical delays in care.

MAXIMIZE RESOURCES

1. **SUPPORT** access to care by setting fair payment parameters for telehealth services. **FORM** a statewide telehealth advisory committee to analyze data and make future policy recommendations in an ever-evolving area of health care.
2. **PROVIDE** funding for clinical staff who perform patient observation for individuals evaluated, approved and awaiting a bed as an involuntary admission to a state mental hospital.
3. **DEVELOP** a pathway for apprenticeship programs to serve in areas of critical need in Kansas' health care settings.



ON TELEHEALTH ...
Telehealth services help Kansas communities access specialists and keep Kansans active and present in the workforce.