



2020 Federal Candidate Questionnaire Barbara Bollier

- 1. Besides the COVID-19 pandemic, what do you believe is the most pressing healthcare issue facing Americans today? How would you propose to address this issue if you were elected to Congress?**

I believe the lack of access to affordable healthcare is the most pressing issue facing Americans. In the Senate I'll fight to protect the elements of the Affordable Care Act that are working well -- such as protections for Kansans with pre-existing conditions. I will work across the aisle to improve the parts of the ACA that have not been as successful as hoped. Additionally, I support federal efforts to incentivize the remaining 12 states that have not yet expanded Medicaid -- including Kansas -- to do so. Finally, I will continue efforts I championed in the Kansas Legislature to prevent surprise medical billing in a way that makes sense for the patients, providers, and payers alike.

- 2. What policies would you support in Congress to provide hospitals the necessary resources to effectively deal with the COVID-19 pandemic in their communities?**

It is absolutely essential that Congress put aside partisan bickering and pass a fourth COVID-19 relief package as soon as possible. Kansas hospitals were already struggling to stay afloat before the pandemic due to high rates of uncompensated care, which was made worse by Kansas' failure to expand Medicaid. This, combined with months of limiting elective procedures to protect in-patient bed capacity, has absolutely devastated the bottom lines of Kansas hospitals. I became a doctor to help people, and I became a legislator to help solve problems. I'll be a Senator who does both, and that includes delivering on support for hospitals across Kansas as they work on the front lines to protect our communities from a global pandemic.

- 3. The 340B drug pricing program has been essential for many Kansas hospitals who serve a high proportion of low-income Kansans. Do you support**

this program as it is or would you be recommending any changes to it like those being sought by pharmaceutical companies?

I wholeheartedly support the 340B drug pricing program and legislative efforts to protect 340B eligibility -- especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Pharmaceutical companies have too much power, and politicians in Washington have failed to stand up to them. I also support more transparency in drug manufacturing, including legislation to allow Medicare to negotiate for lower prescription drug costs. These measures would be positive steps forward in driving down the cost of prescription drugs.

4. What changes would you champion to reduce the regulatory burden for hospitals under the Medicare and Medicaid programs?

As a physician, I understand all too well the burdens of unnecessary regulations and administrative paperwork. I'll support legislation that allows providers to do what they do best: care for others. Washington makes too many decisions without listening to those who have been on the front lines caring for others everyday. Healthcare workers should be allowed to spend more time attending to the needs of their patients, not filling out paperwork.

5. What steps would you take to provide relief for small and rural hospitals to ensure they can continue to provide health care services to their communities?

I'm a longtime champion for the expansion of Medicaid because it's good for rural Kansas and will serve as a lifeline for rural hospitals. I recently traveled to Southeast Kansas to learn about the work of the Southeast Kansas Community Health Center. Their health system has filled the gap left by a number of hospital closures in surrounding communities. I learned how patients are now forced to travel because they don't have access to a hospital in their own community, and how expensive it gets once patients make the difficult decision to transfer to a hospital in a town nearby. We must do better. Medicaid Expansion will help.

6. How do you view the role of telemedicine in our current healthcare system? Do you support any federal telehealth policy changes to make it more accessible?

Aside from Medicaid Expansion, the critical importance of telemedicine in supporting rural Kansas communities is the most consistent takeaway from my travels across the state. It has been nothing short of a game changer for rural Kansas during this public

health pandemic. I was a longtime supporter of telemedicine as the Vice Chair on the Public Health and Welfare Committee in the Kansas Senate, I am eager to champion this cause in the U.S. Senate. I would like to join the bipartisan Telehealth Caucus if I am elected to and I will eagerly support efforts to invest in rural broadband across the state so that telemedicine can expand even more.