



KHA's Current Report
May 30, 2025

President's Perspective – Kansas Congressional Members Weigh in on Medicaid Policy

The past few weeks in Washington, DC, have been hectic to say the least. Kansas Hospital Association staff worked extensively with the Kansas House of Representatives delegation to seek certain changes and clarifications in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, the official name for the long-awaited budget reconciliation bill. The bill makes certain changes to Medicaid to generate long-term savings, namely by adding work requirements starting no later than the end of 2026 for Medicaid recipients who are able-bodied adults without children. Many policies that would have been more harmful for Kansas hospitals, like site-neutral payments in Medicare, changing the federal Medical Assistance percentage rate for Medicaid and reduced percentage caps on provider taxes, were not included.

However, the bill attempts to limit future increases in provider tax rates and state-directed payments. What "future increases" means dominated the vast majority of our interactions with Congress during the past month. For provider taxes, we were able to clarify that the bill's language of grandfathering in rates already "imposed" included Kansas' recently passed increase to six percent. However, the original bill said that state-directed payment rates would not be subject to a Medicare-rate cap only if they had been "approved" by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services by the time the bill goes into effect.

This would have left out the bill passed during the 2025 Kansas legislative session that brings Kansas' Critical Access Hospitals and Rural Emergency Hospitals into the provider tax program to receive enhanced support. We worked with Representatives Derek Schmidt and Tracey Mann to address this problem. Their efforts paid off as the House Energy and Commerce Committee changed "approved" to "submitted." While this requires the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to work quickly to submit an updated preprint for 2026 that includes the CAHs and REHs in the provider tax program to CMS before the bill goes into effect, it keeps the window of achieving this open. Many thanks go to Representatives Schmidt and Mann and their offices for their diligent work on our hospitals' behalf!

This revised language, however, still leaves the state in a precarious position. KDHE knows the clock is ticking for them to submit the 2026 preprint and waiver on time, which is a moving target based on how fast Congress can pass and President Donald Trump can sign the One Big Beautiful Bill Act into law. KDHE is working with KHA staff to submit the 20206 pre-print and waiver by June 30. We are now working with our Senators to amend "submitted" to a date certain in the future that would give KDHE enough time to complete its work. Discussions are ongoing, but Senators have been receptive to our request.

While it is too early to tell how the debate will play out in the Senate, it will dominate the month of June on Capitol Hill. There are indications that some deficit hawks may try to bring back discussions on site-neutral payments and hard percentage caps on provider taxes, but at the same time, the chamber's moderates are unhappy with many of the House's Medicaid provisions. Regardless, we believe we've made headway in explaining our positions to our state's Senators. In our meeting with Senator Moran in early May, he discussed the importance of Kansas' provider tax program. As the bill proceeds and goes through the always-unpredictable legislative process, we will continue to press our concerns. Please keep us posted if you have any questions, and thank you for your continued involvement in our advocacy efforts!

--Chad Austin

Don't forget to Submit Your Nominations for KHA Awards

The Kansas Hospital Association staff encourages hospitals to carve out a few minutes next week to nominate an individual for a KHA award. Nominate a health care employee or a board member who has made a significant contribution. Nominate a team that has impacted recruitment and/or retention. Nominate an individual who has provided a lifetime of service, or one who has made a visionary contribution or one who has advocated for the work we do every day. We need your nominations in our [online awards portal](#) by June 1.

[Heart of Health Care Award](#) – The award recognizes and honors the excellence of health care workers statewide. Previously, this award was called the Health Care Worker of the Year Award. All nominated employees (one employee from every hospital) will be recognized by KHA for making a significant contribution to the betterment of their hospital.

[Trustee of the Year Award](#) – The award recognizes and honors a hospital board member from each facility who is a leader, gives back to the community and routinely goes beyond the call of duty. KHA members are encouraged to recognize a trustee who has served with distinction and made significant contributions to the betterment of their hospital and community.

[Workforce Strategies Award](#) – The award recognizes a team of employees, providers or volunteers who worked collaboratively to make a significant contribution to the well-being, retention, or recruitment of health care workers at their facility(s) or in Kansas.

[Charles S. Billings Award](#) – The award recognizes a hospital leader for his or her lifetime of service and continuing contribution to the health care of Kansas. This is the top honor given by KHA. This award was established in 1971 to honor KHA's first president, Charles. S. Billings' dedication and years of service to Kansans.

[Donald A. Wilson Visionary Award](#) – The award recognizes hospital-related individuals who have made outstanding, innovative contributions to health care delivery, health care financing or initiatives that improve the health and clinical outcomes of their community. This award was established in 2007 to honor long-time KHA president and CEO Donald A. Wilson's dedication and years of service to Kansans.

[Distinguished Health Care Advocate Award](#) – The award honors individuals, organizations or groups that have demonstrated their commitment to health care through participation in the public domain. This award allows members of KHA to recognize those who work on our behalf from outside our ranks.

Nominations are due June 1 in our [online awards portal](#). Learn more about KHA awards [online](#).

--Cindy Samuelson

Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments Is Going Paperless

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has communicated that the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments is going paperless for email notifications, electronic fee coupons and CLIA certificates. Labs need to initiate the switch, and the deadline is March 1, 2026. For more information, including the process for your lab to make the switch, go to [Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments | CMS](#).

--Larry Van Der Wege

KHA Discharge Data Expanded Payer Code Lunch & Learn – June 18

In January, to advance the hospital data collection and improve analytics, the Kansas Hospital Association launched the [expansion of payer code categories](#) used in the discharge data program to better identify insurance coverage for all hospital discharges submitted to our data partner, HIDI – the Hospital Industry Data Institute. The goal is to have all KHA hospitals successfully using the expanded codes by July discharge submissions (due Sept. 15). This new information will support our hospitals, KHA advocacy opportunities and population health initiatives.

KHA and HIDI will host an *Expanded Payer Code Lunch & Learn* from noon to 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 18. During the session, participants can ask questions regarding the required modifications to established data submission processes.



--Dee Lewis

Register Today! Virtual KAHCE Education Event

The [Kansas Association of Health Care Executives of Kansas](#) invites you to join them from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 25, for a virtual education event: [Five Months In: Federal Policy Shifts Under the New Trump Administration – Rural and Urban Healthcare Perspectives](#). Health care executives, department directors, managers and all related professionals in a health care setting will benefit from this program.

This virtual learning session is approved for 1.5 hours of ACHE Virtual Interactive Education credit. It will provide participants with insights on how to stay ahead of federal developments and what the real-world implications of these policy shifts are for rural and urban organizations and the communities you serve. The moderated panel presentation and discussion will feature experts from rural and urban health care settings and on national policy.

See this [step-by-step registration guide](#) on registering for a virtual chapter event. Registration is a two-step process as listed below.

- Step 1 – Register through ACHE of Kansas: <https://kahce.square.site/>
- Step 2 – Register for Virtual Interactive credit through the [ACHE registration link](#).

--Jaron Caffrey

Kansas 4M Seeking Volunteer Sites for Age-Friendly Training

The Kansas 4M Geriatrics Workforce Education Program offers \$1,000 for up to 30 hospital/health system sites to participate in an Age-Friendly Action Community and achieve Level 1 and Level 2 Age-Friendly Health Systems Recognition. The program uses an evidence-based framework called the 4Ms: What Matters, Medication, Mentation (Mind) and Mobility. Participating sites may include hospitals/health systems, nursing homes, primary care sites and delivery systems, ambulatory care, convenient care clinics, geriatric surgery and geriatric emergency departments serving older adults across Kansas. Eligible-funded sites are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. [Click here](#) for more information and to apply. The application deadline has been extended through 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, June 5.

--Karen Braman

CMS Releases Request for Information about Price Transparency

The [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services requested information](#) about improving prescription drug price transparency, new guidance about hospital price transparency and an [updated](#) price transparency resources [website](#). These actions will "strengthen two key regulatory actions," [transparency in coverage](#) final regulations and the [hospital price transparency](#) final regulations.

CMS also [released](#) a request for information about how to identify challenges and improve compliance and enforcement processes related to the transparent reporting of complete, accurate and meaningful pricing data by hospitals. Comments about the prescription drug price transparency request for information will be due 30 days following publication in the *Federal Register*, and comments about the hospital price transparency request for information will be due by 10:59 p.m. Monday, July 21.

--Jaron Caffrey

Health Observances and Recognition Days for June

Month-Long Observances

- Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month
- Aphasia Awareness Month (National)
- Cataract Awareness Month
- Congenital Cytomegalovirus Awareness Month
- Hernia Awareness Month
- Liver Health Matters Month
- Men's Health Month
- Migraine and Headache Awareness Month (National)
- Myasthenia Gravis Awareness Month
- Pride Month
- Professional Awareness Month
- PTSD Awareness Month
- Safety Month (National)
- Scleroderma Awareness Month (National)
- Scoliosis Awareness Month (National)

Week-Long Observances

- June 1-7 – CPR and AED Awareness Week (National)
- June 9-13 – Community Health Improvement Week
- June 9-15 – Men's Health Week
- June 12-18 – Nursing Assistants Week (National)
- June 16-20 – Health Care Risk Management Week
- June 22-28 – Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week
- June 23-29 – Continence Week (World)

Recognition Days | Events

- June 1 – Cancer Survivors Day (National)
- June 2 – Eating Disorders Action Day (World)
- June 8 – Brain Tumor Day (World)
- June 13 – Rare Chromosome Disorder Awareness Day and Wear Blue Friday
- June 14 – Family Health and Fitness Day and Blood Donor Day (World)
- June 15 – Elder Abuse Awareness Day (World)
- June 18 – Autistic Pride Day
- June 19 – Sickle Cell Day (World)
- June 21 – Day of Yoga (International) and MND Awareness Day (Global)
- June 25 – Vitilago Day (World)
- June 26 – Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (International)
- June 27 – HIV Testing Day (National), PTSD Awareness Day (National) and Sunglasses Day (National)
- June 29 – Scleroderma Day (World)

The Kansas Hospital Association and the Society for Healthcare Strategy and Market Development are pleased to bring you the [2025 Calendar of Health Observances & Recognition Days](#). Yet another example of our commitment to providing health care strategists with practical, timely resources, this calendar is designed to help you plan your community health events, internal and external communications, social media campaigns and more. The calendar is easy to navigate, interactive and features more than 230 health observances and recognition days. Don't miss out on receiving calendar updates from SHSMD sponsor Baldwin Publishing. Not only do they provide you with a Health Observance Guide with ALL the content you need to post every day for the following month, but they also give access to healthy recipes, cooking videos, branded cookbooks, recipe calendars, wellness content and solutions.

--Jan Fenwick

Federal and National News

MLN Connects Provider eNews Available

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [issued](#) the following updates to *MLN Connects Provider eNews*:

- [Inpatient Hospital Admissions: Transferring Medical Review Responsibilities for Short Stay Claims](#)
- [Medicare Shared Savings Program: Apply Now](#)