



MEDIA ADVISORY

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The Bridge to a Healthy Kansas Introduced in House and Senate

Unique Kansas solution is budget-neutral, likely to produce financial gain for Kansas

(January 26, 2016) – New legislation was introduced today in the Kansas House and Senate that creates a bridge within the current KanCare program to provide affordable health care coverage for approximately 150,000 Kansans who do not earn enough to afford private insurance.

This new, budget-neutral program makes health care coverage more accessible for low-income Kansans at no additional cost to Kansas taxpayers and without using State General Funds. In fact, with federal funds replacing state funds and a program emphasis on primary and preventive care to lower health care costs, The Bridge to a Healthy Kansas is likely to produce a net financial gain for Kansas. [Independent sources suggest the financial gain to Kansas could reach \\$178 million in 2017](#), with positive net gains every year thereafter through 2025.

The Bridge to a Healthy Kansas provides a unique solution for health care coverage. By requiring program participants to be accountable for covering a portion of their costs through a personal Health Savings Account, The Bridge to a Healthy Kansas is designed to create a path to greater health and personal responsibility for those currently in the coverage gap.

[A legislative brief of the bill is available online.](#)

The Kansas Hospital Association is a voluntary, non-profit organization existing to be the leading advocate and resource for members. KHA membership includes 212 member facilities, of which 126 are full-service, community hospitals. Founded in 1910, KHA's vision is: "*Optimal Health for Kansas.*"