



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Kansas Advocates Will Continue to Work on a Solution**

### *House Vote is Three Votes Shy of an Override*

(April 3, 2017) – The Kansas Hospital Association is deeply disappointed that the Kansas House was unable to override Governor Brownback’s veto of House Bill 2044. The House voted 81-44, 84 votes were needed. This bill would have:

- Provided important health care coverage for more than 150,000 of our most vulnerable citizens.
- Brought hundreds of millions of tax dollars back to Kansas.
- Supported struggling hospitals and health care providers across the state.
- Created a fiscally responsible, patient centered, health care plan for our state.
- Created jobs and boosted the Kansas economy.

More than 82 percent of Kansans support KanCare expansion. To date, Kansas has lost nearly \$1.8 billion of our own federal tax dollars because of the failure to do what’s best for Kansas and expand KanCare. Congress recently signaled that the opportunity for states to expand their Medicaid programs would remain the law of the land, at least for the foreseeable future. Clearly, the data shows that this legislation could have helped, not hurt, the state’s budget situation.

Advocates will continue to work on a Kansas solution as our state is currently on the wrong side of this equation; Kansas is at both an economic and competitive disadvantage.

The Kansas Hospital Association is a voluntary, non-profit organization existing to be the leading advocate and resource for members. KHA membership includes 219 member facilities, of which 127 are full-service, community hospitals. Founded in 1910, KHA’s vision is *Optimal Health for Kansas*.