



Media Statement

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Kansas Hospitals Enthusiastic about Bipartisan Collaboration on Medicaid (KanCare) Expansion

(January 9, 2020) – The Kansas Hospital Association is delighted to learn that Gov. Laura Kelly and Sen. Jim Denning have reached an agreement on a Medicaid (KanCare) expansion plan. The plan allows for expansion up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level beginning Jan. 1, 2021.

In addition to expanding eligibility, the plan includes a requirement that Kansas pursue a Section 1332 reinsurance waiver. Advocates are pleased that the plan does not include a work requirement nor a lockout. An essential component of this agreement insisted on by both Gov. Kelly and Sen. Denning is a “hospital surcharge” that will be used to help offset the state’s share of expansion costs.

“This agreement is clearly the most significant progress we have seen in the Medicaid expansion debate in Kansas,” said Tom Bell, KHA president and CEO. “The fact that Gov. Kelly and Sen. Denning have agreed in principle on a plan is momentous. It represents real compromise and is undoubtedly the best, and maybe the only, way to get this through the legislature.”

KHA members are enthusiastic about the opportunity to expand health care coverage to thousands of hardworking, low-income Kansans. KanCare expansion is a benefit to individual Kansans, Kansas health care providers, Kansas businesses and Kansas communities.

This is an excellent example of what can be accomplished when Republicans and Democrats work together in a bipartisan manner, and our state will be better off for it.

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 123 are full-service, community hospitals. Founded in 1910, KHA's vision is: "Optimal Health for Kansans."

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