



Dear Governor Laura Kelly and members of the Kansas Legislature:

In the face of a pandemic and state of emergency caused by the rapid spread of coronavirus COVID-19, the undersigned organizations, business leaders and associations urge you to close the coverage gap and increase access to health insurance by expanding Medicaid. It is our best option to sustain the health, safety and economic well-being of all Kansans.

Many of our state's uninsured are child care workers, nursing homes aides, cashiers, farmers and restaurant employees. Not only are these workers at a heightened risk of infection due to a high-contact environment, but their risk of unintentionally transmitting the virus to others is high, as they are uninsured and unable to access critical care and treatment that addresses complications and symptoms if infected.

All Kansans are at a higher risk of infection, serious health complications and even fatalities because so many of our neighbors are uninsured. Expanding Medicaid would help not only these individuals but have a positive ripple effect for families, communities and our entire state.

Increasing access to health insurance is essential to ensuring that our hospitals and community health centers aren't overwhelmed during this crisis. With coverage, Kansans can access treatment to contain and mitigate the effects from the virus. Affordable health insurance coverage is a foundational component of a robust health care system. Closing the gap would allow tens of thousands of people to access lifesaving coverage.

As you close out the 2020 Legislative Session, and as an emergency response to the public health threat facing our state, we urge you to close the coverage gap in an effort to mitigate some of the health and economic harms that have already come and the future ones that will follow.

Sincerely,

AARP Kansas	Behavioral Health Association of Kansas	Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas
AdventHealth Shawnee Mission	Big Tent Coalition	Community Health Council of Wyandotte County
Alliance for a Healthy Kansas	Cairn Health, Inc.	Cultivate KC
Alzheimer's Association	Capper Foundation	Disability Rights Center of Kansas
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network	Center for Research on Aging and Disability Options, University of Kansas	Equality Kansas
American Diabetes Association	Children's Alliance of Kansas	First Congregational Church Topeka
AFT Kansas	Colby United Methodist Church	First Congregational United Church of Christ, Manhattan
American Heart Association	Communities Creating Opportunity (CCO)	Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce
American Lung Association	Community Action Inc.	Health Forward Foundation
Ascension Via Christi	Community Care Network of Kansas	Health Partnership Clinic
Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas		Humanity House Foundation

Independence Inc.	Kansas National Education Association	Saint Luke's Health System
Junction City Area Chamber of Commerce	Kansas Organization of Nurse Leaders	Self Advocate Coalition of Kansas
KanCare Advocates Network	Kansas Public Health Association	Shalom Mennonite Church
Kansas Action for Children	Kansas Rural Center	Shawnee Mission Pediatrics
Kansas ADAPT	Kansas Silver Haired Legislature	Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Office of Justice and Peace
Kansas Advocates for Better Care	Kansas State Nurses Association	Social Work p.r.n.
Kansas AFL-CIO	League of Woman Voters of Kansas	Susan G. Komen Kansas + Western Missouri
Kansas Appleseed	Mainstream Coalition	Team Saint Mark Prison Ministry Group - Saint Mark United Methodist Church
Kansas Association of Area Agencies on Aging & Disabilities	March of Dimes	Temple Beth Shalom
Kansas Association of Community Action Programs	Mental Health America of the Heartland	The Arc of Douglas County
Kansas Association of Local Health Departments	Metro Organization for Racial and Economic Equity	The Chamber of Lawrence Kansas
Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition, Inc.	Ministry of Presence	The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce
Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics	NAMI Kansas	The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Kansas City Medical Society Foundation	National Association of Social Workers - Kansas Chapter	Thrive Allen County
Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence	National Multiple Sclerosis Society	Thrive Health Connection
Kansas Dental Hygienists' Association	NEKCAP, Inc.	Topeka Center for Peace and Justice
Kansas EMS Association	New Hope and Love Community Church	Topeka Independent Living Resource Center, Inc.
Kansas Farmers Union	Oral Health Kansas	Topeka JUMP
Kansas Health Foundation	Overland Park Chamber of Commerce	Unified Government of Wyandotte County/KCK
Kansas Home Care & Hospice Association	Planned Parenthood Great Plains Votes	United Community Services of Johnson County
Kansas Hospital Association	Prostate Network, Inc.	United Methodist Health Ministry Fund
Kansas Interfaith Action	REACH Healthcare Foundation	Vibrant Health
Kansas Mental Health Coalition	Rosedale Development Association	