

# IMPROVING AND EXPANDING KANCARE

#### Good for Kansas. Good for Ottawa County.

Kansas faces a number of difficulties in its healthcare system. Tens of thousands of Kansans are uninsured and go without needed care. Others receive care but are unable to pay their bills, often accumulating substantial debt and facing bankruptcy. Many rural hospitals are at risk of closure. A solution is available - Kansas has an opportunity to expand eligibility for KanCare, the state's Medicaid program, to cover nearly 150,000 additional Kansans.

We turn back \$1.8 million of our federal tax dollars every day that could be used for this program. Additionally, we reject nearly a half a billion dollars in federal incentives to expand. Instead of investing in a state-specific solution to improve and expand KanCare, these funds go to other states. KanCare expansion is a fiscally responsible way to grow the economy and create new jobs, support hospitals and give thousands of Kansans access to healthcare coverage. It is a common sense step in the right direction that puts practicality over politics.

#### **ECONOMIC IMPACT & JOB CREATION**

Expanding KanCare is projected to bring more than \$900,000 per year in additional healthcare spending to Ottawa County. What starts as a small investment in healthcare will trigger a chain reaction of economic development across our county and state. More Kansans with access to routine and preventive care will bring down costs and create jobs for doctors, nurses, medical support staff and others, helping to boost local economies and grow small businesses. Over the next five years expanding KanCare will add nearly 23,000 jobs in Kansas, including new jobs here in Ottawa County.

### **IMPROVED ACCESS TO CARE**

Expanding KanCare will provide health coverage to many residents of Ottawa County who fall into a coverage gap - they earn too much to qualify for the current KanCare program, but too little to get financial help to buy a private plan. With expansion, more Kansans will be able to access preventive care to help them stay healthy and avoid costly ER visits. Our family, friends and neighbors will have greater financial security and won't be forced to choose between paying their medical bills and paying for other expenses. Healthy, secure Kansans can be full contributors in their communities.

## EXPANDING KANCARE WILL BENEFIT OTTAWA COUNTY

121
Uninsured residents will gain health coverage

21 New jobs will be created

\$907,500

In new annual
healthcare
spending will
create economic
impact and
improve health

Learn more at ExpandKanCare.com