

March 18, 2024

Kansas is one of the few states without Medicaid Expansion. The healthcare disparity for poverty-level individuals improves when Medicaid Expansion exists.

Expansion is associated with a 4% reduction in spending on traditional Medicaid programs.

Healthy constituents improve their communities. It makes no ethical or economical sense to keep Kansans unhealthy and spend more than is needed.

According to Mclerney et al., “Medicaid expansion was associated with a 15 percentage point increase in Medicaid coverage which was largely offset by declines in other types of insurance. We find improvements in several measures of health including a 12% reduction in metabolic syndrome; a 32% reduction in complications from metabolic syndrome; an 18% reduction in the likelihood of gross motor skills difficulties; and a 34% reduction in compromised activities of daily living (ADLs). Our results thus suggest that the Medicaid expansion led to improved physical health for low-income, older adults.”

Additionally, Lee et al., found that

“After 4 years of implementation, Medicaid expansion remains associated with significant reductions in all-cause mortality, but reductions are variable by state characteristics. These results could inform policy makers to provide broad-based equitable improvements in health outcomes.”

I am certain you will do what is right by Kansas’s citizens and vote to expand Medicaid to reduce healthcare disparities and all-cause mortality for your constituents.

Thank you.
Josie Bell

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35977244/>

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/article/PIIS2468-2667\(21\)00252-8/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/article/PIIS2468-2667(21)00252-8/fulltext)

March 19, 2024

Kansas is losing rural hospitals. There are multiple reasons to expand Medicaid but a big one is that we need it to support our rural hospitals. It is hard to understand the cruelty displayed by legislators who are blocking Medicaid expansion.

Catherine Bowser,
10077 Hemlock Dr.,
Overland Park, KS 66212

March 19, 2024

I believe that it is of vital importance to the people of Kansas that we have Medicaid Expansion. It would help so many uninsured people have the health care they need and cannot afford. It would also help so many rural hospitals stay in business.

Grace and peace

John 14:27

Glena



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Testimony

As the Topeka Center for Peace and Justice has been partnering with local and state-wide organizations in advocacy, we are spending more time at the Kansas State Capitol. Recently, we have supported the KanCare Expansion Rally at the Capitol which was a great success. There were many great speakers including my daughter, Emersen, who is Director of Health Equity and Policy at Stormont Vail Health. When Emersen was in middle school, she, and her older sister, Carleigh, advocated for Medicaid expansion at the Capitol by holding signs (left photo). Ten years later, Emersne was at the podium representing Stormont Vail Hospital and the Kansas Hospitals Association (center photo). She spoke on the benefits of the expansion for her employer and other hospitals including those throughout rural Kansas if the legislators passed KanCare Expansion (Medicaid Expansion). I believe it is important to speak up for people who cannot speak for themselves, those that have been silenced, and those who have been ignored. Just like my family is speaking up, all organizations including TCPJ should be using our voices to help those who cannot help themselves.



After about 10 years of advocacy for Medicaid Expansion, I believe it's time for the State of Kansas to passed this. My home state of Arkansas has passed it even the state of Mississippi. Your vote can help hospitals across Kansas including our local like Hospital Stormont Vail and our rural hospitals and many people who are in the gap.

If you have any questions, please call me via email or call 816-797-6223 (cell).

Sincerely,

Carl Frazier
Executive Director, TCPJ

March 25, 2024

Dear Chairman and committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Medicaid Expansion. If the Kansas Legislature approves Medicaid Expansion, 150,000 low-income Kansans would gain access to medical care. The program would also preserve and strengthen rural healthcare helping rural hospitals remain open. All this can be done with no cost to Kansas taxpayers. About \$700 million in annual federal funding would flow into Kansas. Expanding KanCare will improve the health of Kansans, and it will help our state compete with our neighboring states who have all expanded eligibility for their Medicaid programs.

I urge you to support the Medicaid Expansion being considered now.

Julia Young
Overland Park, Kansas