

**Testimony by Charlie Hunt with the Johnson County
Department of Health & Environment (JCDHE) to
House Committee on Health and Human Services
Written Proponent for HB2386 – March 5, 2025**

Chair Carpenter and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 2386 which would provide a permanent change to the income and eligibility requirements for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). JCDHE's mission is to promote and protect the health and environment for all who live, work and play in Johnson County and, as we are only as healthy as our most vulnerable community members, we need to ensure accessible and affordable health care for our state's children, regardless of familial income levels.

As one of the largest vaccine providers in the state of Kansas, JCDHE vaccinated 2,354 publicly insured children under the age of 19 in 2024, and another 1,892 children between birth and 18 years of age who were classified as uninsured. Without establishing a permanent fix, the provision that has kept children whose families earned up to 250% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) eligible for CHIP coverage will expire June 30, 2025. This much needed update would prevent families from finding themselves earning too much to qualify for Medicaid, while also being priced out of the private insurance sector, ultimately leaving even more children uninsured without access to necessary medical care including age-appropriate vaccines that help to keep our county and state residents healthy.

With the expiration of the proviso on June 30, 2025, the number of uninsured children could increase significantly. As such, JCDHE asks that the committee recommend HB 2386 favorably for passage and help keep children in Kansas healthy.

Sincerely,

Charlie Hunt, Director
Johnson County Department of Health & Environment

