



To: Members of the Senate Committee on Government Efficiency

From: April Holman, Executive Director, Alliance for a Healthy Kansas

Date: February 11, 2025

RE: Opposition to SB 161

Thank you, Chairwoman Erickson and members of the committee, for allowing me to share my opposition to SB 161.

My name is April Holman, and I am the Executive Director of the Alliance for a Healthy Kansas. The Alliance for a Healthy Kansas is nonpartisan health policy advocacy organization focused on increasing access to affordable health care and decreasing medical debt.

We are concerned that the extra steps and procedures established in SB 161 would impede the ability of state agencies to respond to emerging challenges and opportunities in a timely and efficient manner. As advocates for access to affordable health care we are particularly concerned about the impact this bill would have on the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Office of Medicaid. It would lengthen the approval process for even small technical changes needed to stay in compliance with new laws and regulations and has the potential to create a bottleneck of approvals during a legislative session that is already short. This will slow down the system and make it more cumbersome to administer.

The Medicaid Program is an important source of health coverage for many of our Kansas family, friends, and neighbors. There are already a number of ways that the Kansas Legislature exercises influence over the program, including the agency budget process and the Bob Bethell KanCare Oversight Committee. Measures like SB 161, that hamper the system by making it slower and less responsive, will make it less effective over time and ultimately harm the individuals it covers. Therefore, I respectfully ask for your opposition to SB 161.