



Feb. 11, 2025

Senate Committee on Government Efficiency

RE: SB 161

Chair Erickson and members of the Senate Committee on Government Efficiency, thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the KanCare Advocates Network (KAN). KAN is a coalition of more than 50 organizations and individuals who advocate on behalf of and serve the 400,000 Kansans who depend upon the Kansas Medicaid program, KanCare, and its seven Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver programs for their health care and long-term supports and services.

The KanCare Advocates Network strongly opposes SB 161 as we have opposed similar proposals in the past. SB 161 is a significant change in the process that has not been thoroughly vetted for its long-term impact and/or unintended consequences to not only the agencies, but to the people of Kansans they serve. Impeding the agencies' ability to amend Medicaid and its seven HCBS waivers without legislative consent restricts Kansas from complying with federal requirements, large or small, in a timely manner. For example, an added layer of governmental bureaucracy hamstring the State as it begins implementation of the Community Support Waiver, the new KanCare managed care contracts or compliance with federal requirements. And it jeopardizes the health and well-being of Kansans who are eligible for services and assistance.

Such a sweeping change deserves discussions between Medicaid agencies and their stakeholders to determine the implications and ramifications of such a significant change in procedure by limiting these agencies' ability to carry out their mission to serve Kansans and fulfill their statutory obligations.

Thank you again, for the opportunity to testify in opposition of this bill. We ask you to reject SB 161.

On behalf of the KanCare Advocates Network

Sean Gatewood, co-administrator

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