



TO: House Appropriations Committee

FROM: Chad Austin
Senior Vice President, Government Relations

DATE: March 21, 2012

RE: House Bill 2789

On behalf on the 126 member institutions of the Kansas Hospital Association, we appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2789. The proposed legislation would create a joint legislative committee to oversee the KanCare program.

Over the years, Kansas hospitals have worked in partnership with the state to insure that our most vulnerable and needy citizens have access to quality health care. Our commitment to that relationship and our willingness to be a partner with the state in the construction of a reformed Medicaid program remains strong. We recognize that the current trajectory for Medicaid expenditures are not reasonably feasible and that initiatives must be developed that will improve outcomes and reduce costs, especially those costs that result from excessive and redundant rules and regulations that have little correlation to quality care.

KHA and its members have participated in the administration's Medicaid reform public input forums and discussions. We have appreciated this opportunity and continue to be available as the state moves forward with its effort. One key provision to safeguard Medicaid beneficiaries and providers as we move towards implementation is to develop proper oversight of the program. KHA believes that House Bill 2789 would complement the work being conducted by our state agencies and allow the legislature the opportunity to provide input into the Medicaid program.

Hospitals are significant stakeholders and providers of care for the State's Medicaid enrollees. As such, we recognize the tremendous task in front of all us in reforming and redesigning the program to match the vision "To serve Kansans in need with a transformed, fiscally sustainable Medicaid program that provides high-quality holistic care and promotes personal responsibility." We stand willing, as hospitals always have done, to be partners in helping the State achieve that vision.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our comments.