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November 6, 2019

Special Committee on Medicaid Expansion
Chair Brenda Landwehr

Dear Chair Landwehr and committee members,

As I listen to our medical, dental and behavioral health providers and staff, partner agencies and patients from Johnson, Miami and Franklin Counties, it is clear that Medicaid expansion in Kansas would have a rippling effect in the communities we serve. It would positively affect every day, hardworking people. Patients, our staff, the financial health of the clinic and most importantly, our overall community would benefit.

Community health centers in states that have expanded eligibility for Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) report they are more financially stable, more able to provide behavioral health care and social services and more likely to reward good-quality care through innovative payment policies, compared to community health centers in states that have not expanded Medicaid, a new Commonwealth Fund survey finds.

HPC is one of more than 1,300 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) that operate across the United States, providing affordable primary care to medically underserved communities, regardless of patients' insurance status or ability to pay. Research shows they save the health system money, in part by reducing the need for people to seek more expensive care in emergency departments, while also serving as a boost to the economy through job creation and the purchase of goods and services.

Based on our analysis at Health Partnership Clinic, expanding Medicaid in Kansas would have an enormous impact on the clinic's financial health moving forward. If we considered only uninsured adults, age 19-65, who are less than 133 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (which is equal to HPC's Slide A/B patients) we would see a significant bump in our bottom line to a tune of an estimated \$797,000 to \$1.6 million. That means the clinic would be in a healthy position to grow services and reward its staff with more competitive wages and benefits. Most importantly, patients would have better access to care and potentially expanded services.

On behalf of our patients, staff, partner agencies and community, please support KanCare Expansion. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Amy Falk'.

Amy Falk, CEO