

**Testimony of Rachel Sweet  
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Planned Parenthood Great Plains Votes  
Supporting Medicaid Expansion  
Special Committee on Medicaid Expansion  
November 12, 2019**

Planned Parenthood Great Plains Votes, the advocacy and political arm of Planned Parenthood in Kansas, supports Medicaid expansion because it will save women's lives and ensure a healthier and more prosperous Kansas.

**Medicaid expansion will save women's lives.**

- Medicaid expansion uniquely benefits women. Women of reproductive age comprise two-thirds (67%) of the non-elderly adult Medicaid population in Kansas, and at all ages, the majority of Medicaid enrollees are female<sup>1</sup>. There are currently 64,000 Kansas women of reproductive age who are uninsured and need access to health care<sup>2</sup>.
- For thousands of Kansas women, Medicaid makes the difference between access to cancer screenings and birth control or going without. Recent research found that Medicaid coverage increased the probability that a woman received a pap smear in the last 12 months by 14.4 percentage points, and low-income women in states that expanded Medicaid were 25 percent more likely to have a screening for breast cancer than women in non-expansion states<sup>3</sup>. Under Medicaid, women also receive other needed health benefits, including treatment for chronic conditions.
- Additionally, according to a 2014 study by researchers at the University of Kansas Medical Center, more than 20,000 women who otherwise might not receive screenings for breast and cervical cancer would have access to them if covered by Medicaid<sup>4</sup>.
- A Guttmacher Institute study reveals Medicaid provides 75 percent of public funding for family-planning services in the United States. Even so, in 2014, 188,100 women in Kansas were in need of publicly supported contraceptive services and supplies, and 25% of those women were uninsured<sup>5</sup>. Expanding low income women's access to coverage for family planning services means women are able to prevent unintended pregnancies, plan their futures and provide for their families.

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<sup>1</sup>Kaiser Family Foundation, Distribution of Nonelderly Adults with Medicaid by Gender. (2017).

<https://www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/distribution-by-gender-4>

<sup>2</sup>Urban Institute, Insurance Coverage among Women of Reproductive Age in Kansas. (July 2019).

<https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/factsheet-uninsured-women-ks.pdf>

<sup>3</sup>Radiological Society of North America, Medicaid expansion improves breast cancer screening for low-income women. (November 2015).

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2015-11-medicaid-expansion-breast-cancer-screening.html>

<sup>4</sup>Potential Impact of Medicaid Expansion on Cancer Control in Kansas,

[http://media.khi.org/news/documents/2014/05/05/Impact\\_of\\_Medicaid\\_Expansion\\_on\\_Cancer\\_Control\\_in\\_Kansas.pdf](http://media.khi.org/news/documents/2014/05/05/Impact_of_Medicaid_Expansion_on_Cancer_Control_in_Kansas.pdf)

<sup>5</sup>Frost JJ et al., Contraceptive Needs and Services, 2014 Update, New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2016,

<https://www.guttmacher.org/report/contraceptive-needs-and-services-2014-update>

**Medicaid expansion ensures a healthier and more prosperous Kansas.**

- In addition to the health benefits of expanding Medicaid, women and their families will have greater economic security through access to affordable health insurance and preventive care. Hard-working families need the security of quality health coverage to get the care they need, when they need it, without facing overwhelming medical bills.
- When women do choose to start or grow their families, Medicaid coverage of childbirth will save public hospitals and families considerable dollars.
- Having Medicaid as a fallback option is critical for women who may lose private health insurance. Because women are more likely than men to be covered as dependents, a woman is at greater risk of losing her insurance if she becomes widowed or divorced, her spouse loses a job, or her spouse's employer drops family coverage or increases premium and out-of-pocket costs to unaffordable levels.
- Medicaid expansion will bring Kansans' tax dollars back to Kansas and is expected to create 13,000 new jobs.

Accepting the federal funds set aside for Medicaid expansion is a win-win. It means that Kansas can cover more people, save taxpayer dollars currently spent to treat uninsured individuals, and pull significant federal funding into the state economy. Planned Parenthood respectfully urges the committee to advance the health and prosperity of Kansas women by supporting Medicaid expansion without barriers and without delays.