

Salina Family Healthcare Center

A Federally Qualified Community Health Center
651 E. Prescott, Salina, KS 67401
Medical Center ~ (785) 825-7251
Dental Center ~ (785) 826-9017
Pharmacy ~ (785) 452-3900

Testimony in Support of KanCare Expansion

November 12, 2019

Members of the Special Committee on Medicaid Expansion:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of KanCare Expansion. My name is Ann Feil, and I am the Interim CEO / Chief Operations Officer from Salina Family Healthcare Center.

Salina Family Healthcare Center (SFHC) primarily serves the target population of the uninsured and underinsured of the City of Salina and Saline County as well as Dickinson, McPherson, Ottawa, Ellsworth and several other surrounding counties. Our federal 2018 Uniform Data Systems (UDS) report indicated 7,742 patients were from Salina; the remaining 2,633 patients were from surrounding communities.

SFHC's low income (below 200% of federal poverty level) patient population is approximately 63% of our total unique or unduplicated clients. Of the 10,375 total patients seen, 6,741 patients reported their income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level in the calendar year 2018; 3,899 patients qualified for Medicaid, while an additional 1,918 were uninsured. We treat all Kansans, regardless of their ability to pay.

The expansion of KanCare would provide health care coverage for 150,000 hardworking Kansans. These Kansans are our family members, friends, and neighbors. Most are employed and many work multiple jobs to provide for their families; however, they don't make enough money to be able to afford health insurance, and they have incomes that are considered too high within the federal poverty scale to qualify for KanCare. These are Kansans stuck in the coverage gap.

In our county alone, almost 1,352 residents would be eligible for health insurance if we expand KanCare¹. Having coverage means Kansans can have greater access to regular primary care and preventive services. This improves health care services and costs for all of us. In addition, healthier citizens equal healthier communities.

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¹ Expandkancare.com County Health data

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KanCare expansion would not only help improve the health and the lives of our citizens, it would also have a positive economic impact on our communities. KanCare Expansion would reduce the amount of uncompensated care for health care providers statewide. Our clinic alone provides an average of \$2,100,000 in uncompensated care each year.

We are among the proud majority of Kansas voters in favor of expanding KanCare. Let's act now to strengthen Kansas' future.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Ann M. Feil, RHIA

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Interim CEO / Chief Operations Officer

Salina Family Healthcare Center