

TESTIMONY OF FRED LOGAN, CHAIR, MIDWEST CANCER ALLIANCE PARTNERS
ADVISORY BOARD, TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MEDICAID EXPANSION

November 5, 2019

I am grateful to have this opportunity to submit testimony, as chair of the Midwest Cancer Alliance Partners Advisory Board and current Kansas resident, in support of Medicaid expansion in the state of Kansas and to comment in particular on the plan developed by the Senate Select Committee on Medicaid Expansion.

The Midwest Cancer Alliance Partners Advisory Board is a collaborative effort of hospitals and research institutions in Kansas and western Missouri. The Partner's Advisory Board provides support to The University of Kansas Cancer Center's National Cancer Institute designation by demonstrating research and education collaboration among key hospitals and research institutions for the benefit of the region.

Studies have been undertaken to determine the extent to which additional access to preventive services would impact efforts to bring cancer control measures to high risk and underserved communities. One study showed that the expansion of Medicaid in Kansas would provide access to cancer screening and prevention services for almost 40,000 Kansans who are presently not covered. *Potential Impact of Medicaid Expansion on Cancer Control in Kansas*, Ellerbeck, Engelman, and Gurley-Calvez (2014).

There is presently a gap in coverage for uninsured Kansans between the ages of 19-64 who live in the state and have an income less than 138% of the Federal Poverty Line but don't qualify for Medicaid. The *Potential Impact of Medicaid Expansion on Cancer Control in Kansas* study concluded that Medicaid expansion would provide access for 11,883 Kansans to smoking cessation services, 4,324 to colorectal cancer screening, 4,497 to breast cancer screening, and 15,493 to cervical cancer screening, while giving 6,326 Kansans access to vaccinations that can prevent cervical, penile, and oropharyngeal cancers related to the human papilloma virus.

Kansans without access to health coverage need a comprehensive approach to providing improved access to health care and health insurance. This comprehensive approach will depend upon the ability for the uninsured to become insured and stay insured in both Medicaid and the non-Medicaid market.

The Senate Select Committee plan addresses the "coverage gap" by giving access to health care to people making up to 100% of the Federal Poverty Line, while attempting not to disrupt the people who have private insurance coverage through the exchange.

It is worth noting that the Senate Select Committee has a dedicated revenue stream that does not rely on funding from the State General Fund. User taxes from tobacco products and electronic smoking devices will help fund the program. These products pose a significant threat to public health and increasing the tax would not only save lives and prevent cancer, but also result in significant health care cost savings. It is most appropriate that this tax, which has a public health benefit, would help fund the program.

It makes sense to increase the tax on cigarettes by at least \$1.00 per pack and perhaps more. It would logically follow that the tax on other tobacco products such as cigars and chewing tobacco would be brought into line with that tax. Finally, it only makes sense to tax electronic cigarettes in the same manner as other tobacco products so as not to incentivize the use of any of these products through pricing gaps.

I believe that Medicaid expansion would have a very beneficial impact on prevention of cancer related to tobacco use and in the areas of colorectal cancer screening, breast cancer screening, cervical cancer screening, and HPV-related cancer prevention.

In summary, I submit that the cancer screening and prevention services that would come with Medicaid expansion would reduce the financial impact of cancer and greatly improve the health of Kansans with incomes less than 138% of the Federal Poverty Line. The plan developed by the Senate Select Committee on Medicaid Expansion takes a bold approach to providing improved access to health care and health insurance with many components that could positively impact health in our state. I am encouraged by the meaningful conversation being had by this committee. Access to health insurance is essential to surviving cancer and it's imperative that the legislature work together to pass expansion next session.

As chair of The Midwest Cancer Alliance Partners Advisory Board I support expansion of Medicaid in Kansas.