



American Academy of Pediatrics

INCORPORATED IN KANSAS

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November 5, 2019

Attn: Special Committee on Medicaid Expansion

Chair Brenda Landwehr:

The Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (KAAP) represents over 90% of the practicing pediatricians in the state. The KAAP has the fundamental goal that all children and adolescents in Kansas have the opportunity to grow safe and strong. It is with this goal in mind that we want to share our support of Medicaid expansion in Kansas.

Kansas pediatricians are committed to partnering with decision-makers to develop and implement policy that supports expansion efforts. Kansas is one of only 17 states not participating in Medicaid expansion. Medicaid policies and procedures have a significant impact on the health of Kansas children. Parents with health insurance coverage are more likely to have children with coverage and are less likely to have breaks in their own coverage and more likely to remain insured.

In addition, Kansas pediatricians also support policies that oppose lifetime caps, ensure that work requirements do not create barriers to care for parents, which can affect children's enrollment as well, increase access to mental health services and resources for children, and ensure adequate payment for services required in order to increase access to care.

Medicaid expansion results in improved access to care, affordability of care, and financial security for low-income working families. Studies have shown improved health outcomes and self-reported health in expansion states. States that have expanded Medicaid have seen reductions in uncompensated care costs and fewer rural hospital closures as well as positive or neutral effects on employment and labor markets.

Thank you for the opportunity to share how expanding Medicaid expansion can benefit Kansas children and families. Please let us know if we can provide further information, education, or resources.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Dena Hubbard, MD, FAAP

Legislative Coordinator