



February 21, 2013

Office of the Governor
Capitol, 300 SW 10th Avenue
Suite 241S
Topeka, KS 66612-1590

Dear Governor Brownback:

Thank you for taking the time to read over this letter. I know you have already heard many arguments on both sides of the Medicaid Expansion issue. I also want you to know I am Republican and I certainly can appreciate the situation you face. As a CEO of a critical access hospital in a small town, I also want you to know this situation is daunting. We must provide care to our population and we must do this under constant threats and actual payment reductions for providing that care. I cannot see a good outcome if the expansion does not take place as our little hospital stands to lose \$540,000.00 in the first year alone, and more as time progresses as we are currently having dollars taken out to pay for the expansion. This amount may seem trivial, but in a small town it can mean the difference to the patients we serve and the economy of our city. Our hospital provided \$1,058,201.00 in Charity Care and \$5,016,604.00 in Bad Debt expense in 2012.

I hope you will consider other options, such as going ahead with the expansion then evaluating the program each year and cancelling the program if the federal government does not uphold its promises. I am also aware that it would be hard to go back and tell people you are taking away a benefit; however, would it not be the federal government's fault? There are many hard working Kansans who need their elected leadership to please consider other options.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. E. Franks", is written over a horizontal line.

Dennis E. Franks, FACHE
CEO
Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center