

TO: House Appropriations Committee

FROM: Richard Vaught, Administrator
William Newton Hospital
Winfield, KS

DATE: February 21, 2013

RE: HCR 5013 – Prohibiting Medicaid Expansion

On behalf of William Newton Hospital and our health care professionals, we would like to state our opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 5013. The proposed resolution seeks to prohibit Medicaid expansion in Kansas. We believe this resolution is premature as there is no official deadline for a state to decide whether to expand the Medicaid program.

The cost of Medicaid expansion will in great part be paid for through cuts to hospitals provided for in the Affordable Care Act. The Kansas Hospital Association has estimated that these cuts for our small hospital will be around \$490,000 annually. The additional lives covered under Medicaid expansion will at least partially offset these cuts.

I don't understand why the legislature is even considering not participating in Medicaid expansion. Regardless of what anyone thinks politically or philosophically about the ACA, it appears to be here to stay. The financial impact of non-participation on our hospital will be great and collectively on all Kansas hospitals, massive.

Not only will we have to continue absorbing the cost of treating those patients that would otherwise gain insurance coverage through Medicaid expansion, we will simply end up financing Medicaid expansion in other states.

I urge committee members to make sure you have a sound understanding of the true costs of expansion versus non-expansion before you decide on HCR 5013.

I thank you for your thoughtful consideration, and again, I urge you not to adopt HCR 5013.