

February 13, 2012

To: Chairman Crum and Health and Human Services Committee Members

From: Suzanne Wikle, Kansas Action for Children

Re: HB 2025

Chairman Crum and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity today to speak in support of House Bill 2025. Kansas Action for Children supports legislative oversight of KanCare because KanCare is the health insurer for 37% of Kansas Children. In 2012, the average monthly number of Kansas children enrolled in Medicaid was 220,440 and the average monthly enrollment for Kansas children in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) was 48,160. Collectively in 2012, 268,601 children were insured by what is now KanCare. Additionally, approximately 40% of births in Kansas are financed by Medicaid.

Kansas Action for Children believes that oversight of KanCare by a legislative committee is appropriate to ensure that the stated goals and outcomes are being publicly discussed and addressed. We believe that information regarding the status of KanCare should be fully transparent, and the inclusion of data reporting to the Home and Community Based Services Committee will aid in creating transparency on program outcomes.

Because the majority of KanCare beneficiaries are children, Kansas Action for Children recommends that additional data reporting be included in Section 1, Paragraph 2. It is our recommendation that additional data include the specific caseloads of children in both the Medicaid and CHIP programs.

Medicaid and CHIP (previously collectively referred to as HealthWave), now known as KanCare, are critical programs for children in Kansas. Without KanCare children would go without necessary pediatric care, including regular developmental checks, timely immunizations, and treatment for the everyday child illnesses. As the KanCare program in Kansas unfolds, it is important to ensure that the program is meeting the needs of Kansas children. Legislative oversight of KanCare is an important step toward that goal.

Kansas Action for Children asks you to support House Bill 2025 due to KanCare's impact on the health and well-being of Kansas children.

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