

January 31, 2017

Amanda Gress, Director of Government Relations  
Kansas Action for Children  
Testimony in Support of House Bill 2047  
House Health and Human Services Committee

Chairman Hawkins and Members of the Committee:

**Thank you for your efforts to improve KanCare, which provides more than one in three Kansas children with health care coverage.** Kansas Action for Children's vision is to make Kansas the best state to raise a child, and our organization shapes health, education, and economic policies that benefit Kansas children and their families. An important part of that work is advocating for a well functioning KanCare system, so that every Kansas child has the opportunity to grow up healthy.

**Kansas Action for Children supports House Bill 2047 because effective oversight of the KanCare program is essential to ensuring KanCare can serve Kansas children well.** Moving the Office of the Inspector General to the Office of the Attorney General can strengthen this position's independent oversight abilities. A strong inspector general could audit, investigate, and review challenges and areas meriting additional scrutiny early, ultimately improving the health care KanCare provides to over 400,000 Kansans, including nearly 300,000 Kansas children.

**The stakes for Kansas children are high.** A robust body of research demonstrates that health care coverage in a child's early years creates benefits that last a lifetime. Children covered by public health care programs do better in school, earn more as adults, and are healthier later in life than their uninsured peers. Problems in the KanCare system – such as delays in eligibility determinations or an inadequate network of providers – carry long-term consequences for Kansas children. An effective, independent inspector general is one tool that can help address these challenges.

**For these reasons, Kansas Action for Children supports House Bill 2047.** As this Committee works to improve KanCare, please do not hesitate to contact Kansas Action for Children if we can answer questions or otherwise be of assistance.

720 SW Jackson | Suite 201  
Topeka, KS 66603

P: 785-232-0550 | F: 785-232-0699  
kac@kac.org | www.kac.org

Shaping policy that puts children first

**President & CEO**  
Annie McKay

**Board of Directors**  
Prisca Barnes  
Jeffrey Colvin, MD  
Ximena Garcia, MD  
Terrie Huntington  
Susan Jack  
Lt. Kelvin Johnson  
Angie Knackstedt, BSN, RN-BC  
Melinda Lewis, LMSW  
Stephanie Makalous  
Francis Mascarenhas  
Sarah Mays  
Chad Moore, JD, MHA  
Christina Ostmeyer  
Marty Rombold  
Jamie Schmaltz  
Dale Walker, PhD