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16 January 2020

Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee  
Testimony Support Medicaid/KanCare Expansion

Dear Senate Committee Members:

As I listen to our medical, dental and behavioral health providers and staff, patients and partner agencies in Johnson, Miami and Franklin counties, it is abundantly clear that Medicaid expansion would have a rippling effect in the communities we serve. It would have a positive effect on every day, hard working Kansans.

Health Partnership Clinic (HPC) is one of more than 1,300 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) that operate across the United States, providing affordable care to medically underserved communities, regardless of patients' insurance status or ability to pay. Research shows that we save the health system money, in part by reducing the need for individuals to seek more expensive care in emergency departments and reducing the seriousness of illness through the provision of preventative care while also serving as a boost to the economy through job creation and the purchase of goods and services.

FQHC's in states that have expanded eligibility for Medicaid report they are more financially stable, more able to provide additional services such as behavioral health care and social services and more likely to reward good-quality care through innovative payment policies, compared to community health centers in states that have not expanded Medicaid according to a Commonwealth Fund survey.

Based on our analysis at HPC, expanding Medicaid would have an enormous impact on the clinic's financial health, translating into expanded services to Kansans in need. If we considered only uninsured adults who are less than 133 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, we would see a significant increase in revenue. Conservatively this would be about \$1 million. The effect on our ability to provide care would be staggering. While still being good stewards of funds, we could see more patients and provide more services that would improve the health of Kansans. A specific example of how expansion would help is that currently when we need to refer an uninsured patient for care beyond our services it is a struggle as specialists limit the number of uninsured individuals they see. Our providers do the best to manage these conditions, but this is not optimal for them or the patients. With expansion, patients could get the right care at the right time at the right place.

On behalf of our patients and staff, please support expansion of Medicaid to help thousands of hardworking Kansans.

Sincerely,



Amy Falk  
Chief Executive Officer