



MARCER

Mid-America Regional Council Emergency Rescue

600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, MO 64105

To: Senate Committee on Public Health & Welfare

From:

Jamie Miller, Co-Chair, MARCER
Director, Leavenworth County EMS

Chip Portz, Co-Chair, MARCER
Asst. Chief, Central Jackson County
Fire Protection District

RE: Support for Medicaid Expansion, SB 252

Date: January 17, 2020

MARCER supports the expansion of the Medicaid program in Kansas.

Mid-America Regional Council Emergency Rescue (MARCER) is the Kansas City bi-state regional EMS Council. As a subcommittee to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), MARCER consists of over 35 area EMS agencies and 20 hospitals that collaborate on various pre-hospital emergency medical care issues such as communications, disaster planning, hospital diversion, time critical diagnosis, group purchasing, and other policy initiatives.

MARCER believes that providing additional health care insurance coverage for Kansas citizens will increase their productivity and happiness as well as provide tremendous benefit for the Kansas health care system that is already faced with providing care without financial remuneration to many of these patients.

Ambulance services in Kansas provide services to everyone regardless of ability to pay. Many of our patients have no insurance and then either struggle to pay for the services or leave the ambulance service to shift a greater amount of the cost of our services to local governments. The hospitals we partner with are in a more difficult position as they rarely have a local government to provide additional financial support.

Nationwide citizens who have some sort of primary health insurance have more successful and healthy lives. The health care system is more fairly compensated for the services it provides and in much of rural Kansas there will be a stabilization of the rural hospitals critical to Kansas.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact our staff, Jason White
Jason.white3254@gmail.com



James A. [Signature]