

As a mental health counselor in Kansas, I am aware that the people who would qualify for an expanded Medicare are people who will die sooner than their wealthier or better-connected neighbors. I am also aware that the people who do not need medical services tend to look down on those who do but can't afford them. It's almost as if they fear that better health people will somehow compete for the same turf as they occupy.

As a former educator who helped initiate the gifted programs in the Wichita public schools in middle and high schools, I was aware of as many gifted students who worked a second job to help their families survive as were those who went home to music lessons and gymnastics. At all levels, there are people who need medical services.

I am tired of seeing Kansas at the tail end of every list of desirability and accomplishment, but at least in this one area, you have the chance to join the rest of the nation and support all Kansans by accessing federal money and approving this program.

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