



To: House Health and Human Services

From: Rachelle Colombo
Executive Director

Date: January 26, 2022

Subject: HB 2463, relating to the medical assistance program

The Kansas Medical Society appreciates the opportunity to provide comments relating to this bill which prohibits substantive or material changes to the Kansas Medical Assistance Program, KanCare.

The Kansas Medical Society has worked closely with the administration, legislative leaders and health care providers over the past several years to assist in the transition to and implementation of managed care in our state's Medicaid program. Kansas physicians believe in providing high quality access to care to all Kansans served by this program and ensuring that such efforts are fiscally sustainable and do not shift costs among providers

The vast majority of Kansas physicians continue to participate in Medicaid and dedicate a portion of their practice to this patient population. Despite the fact that Medicaid patients are often highly complex, the reimbursement rate for their care is roughly half that of the private market. Even so, Kansas physicians continue to provide services and care for these patients as the number of individuals served by the program has significantly increased while the physician fee schedule has remained frozen since 2006. Physician fees have not increased for a full sixteen years, in spite of increased cost of care and growth in utilization. Obviously, this is not sustainable. While Kansas physicians are committed to providing care for all Kansans, including the uninsured and under-insured, they simply cannot afford to without covering their costs.

The Kansas Medical Society has no comment on the underlying intent of HB 2463, but we would respectfully request that if enacted, it would not preclude a long-overdue fee schedule update to physician fees. Without such an update, it will likely adversely impact access to care for KanCare participants, and result in more patients going without preventive care, and presenting in the emergency departments of hospitals, which is more costly than being seen in a physician's office,. We stand ready to work with Kansas legislators on seeking fiscally sustainably funding for our state's Medicaid program. Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.