

State of Kansas

Senate Chamber



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SB 407 CHIP UPDATE

Senator Hilderbrand, Senator Gossage and Public Health & Welfare colleagues. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to SB 407.

This past year Georgetown Center on Children's & Families identified this issue as they looked at States eligibility for CHIP (Children Health Insurance Program) and the erosion of the eligibility threshold for CHIP. It is supposed to be up to 250% of FPL (Federal Poverty Level) but by Kansas Statute it has been tied to the 2008 FPL. There is no other state that ties the FPL to a specific year. Also, there is no place else in Kansas Statutes that an FPL is tied to a certain date.

For over 13 years this fixed date tying eligibility to 2008 income levels has caused many families to lose eligibility to CHIP. This outdated statute made the premium paying middle class families the ones missing out on CHIP. Participants receiving coverage contribute to the payment for coverage on a sliding scale based on ability to pay. Removing the date of 2008 will correct this eligibility block for Kansas families.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of SB 407 and I will be happy to stand for questions.

Sincerely,

Senator Pat Pettey, 6th District