



November 6, 2019

The Honorable Brenda Landwehr  
Chair, Special Committee on Medicaid Expansion  
Kansas House of Representatives and Kansas Senate  
300 SW 10<sup>th</sup> St.  
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee:

At The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS), our mission is to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and to improve the quality of life of patients and their families. We support that mission by advocating that patients have sustainable access to quality, affordable, coordinated healthcare. On behalf of the more than 13,000 Kansans living with blood cancer, we urge your committee to adopt a KanCare expansion plan quickly and without barriers to access.

Many people on Medicaid have complex and costly healthcare needs. Expanding access to Medicaid – as a majority of Kansans have long supported – is essential to improving health and saving lives. Specific to cancer, Medicaid expansion has helped close disparities in cancer treatment.<sup>i</sup> Expansion also helps state economies: it has been associated with a reduced risk of hospital closures, especially in rural areas,<sup>ii</sup> and reduces the uncompensated care burden for hospitals.<sup>iii</sup>

KanCare expansion has the potential to provide care to about 150,000 Kansans to help manage their health and treat disease. For cancer patients, that care includes primary care providers, specialists, prescription drugs, and other services that can help these patients live healthier, more productive lives. Delays in implementation caused by the potential review and rejection of multiple waiver proposals and harmful barriers to access (such as charging premiums that would deter participation in KanCare<sup>iv</sup>) will work against these opportunities to make life better for the patients LLS serves.

Thank you for your consideration of our letter. We hope that your committee will pursue a thoughtful, bipartisan plan to help more Kansans receive the high-quality, affordable, coordinated healthcare they need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Bacon".

Dana Bacon  
Regional Director, Government Affairs  
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
dana.bacon@lls.org

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<sup>i</sup> *American Society of Clinical Oncology* (June 2, 2019). <https://www.asco.org/about-asco/press-center/news-releases/racial-disparities-access-timely-cancer-treatment-nearly>

<sup>ii</sup> Richard Lindrooth, Marcelo Perrillon, Rose Hardy, and Gregory Tung, "Understanding the Relationship Between Medicaid Expansions and Hospital Closures," *Health Affairs*, 27, no. 1 (January 2018): pp. 111-120. <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/abs/10.1377/hlthaff.2017.0976>

<sup>iii</sup> Jordan H. Rhodes, Thomas C. Buchmueller, Helen G. Levy, and Sayeh S. Nikpay, "Heterogeneous Effects of the ACA Medicaid Expansion on Hospital Financial Outcomes," *Contemporary Economic Policy* (April 10, 2019). <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/coep.12428>

<sup>iv</sup> Sherman Smith, "Kansas Health Institute: Premiums would block 27,000 from Medicaid expansion, add \$2.9 million in revenue," *The Garden City Telegram* (May 2, 2019). <https://www.gctelegram.com/news/20190502/kansas-health-institute-premiums-would-block-27000-from-medicaid-expansion-add-29-million-in-revenue/1>

**National Office**  
3 International Drive  
Suite 200  
Rye Brook, NY 10573  
main 914.949.5213  
www.LLS.org

**BEATING  
CANCER  
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