

STATE OF KANSAS



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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
LEGISLATIVE BUDGET
JOINT COMMITTEE ON STATE-TRIBAL
RELATIONS
ROBERT G. (BOB) BETHELL JOINT
COMMITTEE ON HOME & COMMUNITY
BASED SERVICES & KANCARE
OVERSIGHT

Madam Chair and Committee Members of House Health Committee

Re: Medicaid Expansion

Date: March 20, 2024

While I can talk at length about KDHE and Medicaid and would be happy to tell you why I oppose Medicaid expansions for 150,000 abled body adults. I am going to tell you a story about my biggest concerns on Medicaid expansion.

In 2019, I chaired the social services budget committee. At that time, we had maybe 4800 folks on the waitlist. I was running around talking about eliminating the waitlist. I just thought if we had the money, we could just do away with the waitlist. Twenty million a year for five years in those days to eliminate the waitlist. You see I wasn't thinking about the provider network. The network of providers was in shambles for many years of little or no funding increases as well as covid on top of everything else. It was tough times for these folks. Back to square one. Building the provider network:

Year One- 7% covid ate that up fast

Year Two- 25% helped

Year Three- 25% Real Progress in stabilizing our providers

Year Four- 500 folks off the waitlist and the community support waiver is in the process Seven other waivers have the same issues.

Frail and elderly waiver

7337 folks receiving services.

Physical Disability- 2400 folks on the waitlist

6063 folks receiving services

Autism- 67 folks receiving services

617 proposed recipients

Serious emotional disturbed

803 folks receiving services

I-DD wavier

8992 folks receiving services

5279 on the waitlist

Brain injury waiver

998 folks receiving services

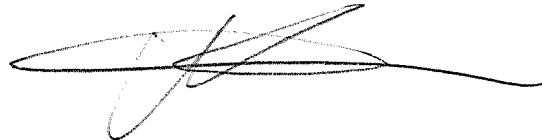
Another issue for concern is when budget cuts occur, and they will. Regular Medicaid is cut first because of the 60/40 match on regular Medicaid versus a 90% match full expansion folks.

In our nursing homes since 2019 we have increased funding for our nursing homes by three hundred and ten million dollars for a total of eight-hundred and sixty-two million dollars All Funds and three hundred and three million State general fund. There is no relief in sight as our nursing homes continue to struggle.

We already spend 8.10 billion on Medicaid, SGF 3.2 billion on Medicaid.

Just to wrap up. I don't understand why we would want take on another one hundred and fifty thousand able-bodied adults when we have all those needs for services for folks that Medicaid was originally supposed to take care of. Our most vulnerable folks, our disabled, our physically disabled, our ID-DD folks and our elderly.

I will stand for questions at the appropriate time. Will Carpenter Representative 75th District.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Will Carpenter', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Will Carpenter
Representative 75th District