



# Kansas Association of Health Plans

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**HB 2764**  
**Before the House Insurance Committee**  
**Marlee Carpenter, Executive Director**

Chairman Shultz and members of the Committee;

The Kansas Association of Health Plans (KAHP) is a nonprofit association dedicated to providing the public information on managed care health plans. Members of the KAHP are Kansas licensed health maintenance organizations, preferred provider organizations and other entities that are associated with managed care. KAHP members serve the majority of Kansans enrolled in private health insurance. KAHP members also serve the Kansans enrolled in HealthWave and Medicaid managed care. The KAHP is here today in opposition to HB 2764.

KAHP believes that HB 2764 will broaden the definition of insurance by requiring reimbursement of educational programs and will increase the costs of health insurance so that it is out of reach for many Kansans. Kansas health insurance carriers already provide coverage for “medically” necessary services to children diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. These services include initial screenings for autism, occupational therapy, speech therapy, physical therapy, and coverage for common medical issues suffered by individuals with autism. In addition, state and federal mental health parity laws already require that these conditions be covered the same as any other medical condition.

Kansas currently has an Autism Waiver Program in place. This program provides services to children in the state. The Autism Waiver Program that is currently in place requires that providers trained by the Kansas Center for Autism Training and Research. Below is the language from the Autism Waiver website:

*Autism Waiver services are provided by four major types of individuals who are trained by professionals from the Kansas Center for Autism Training and Research (KCART): Autism Specialists, Intensive Individual Service Providers, Respite Providers, and Parent Support and Training Providers. Waiver Service Providers can either be Independent Providers or employees of an agency.*

KAHP members believe that similar credentialing be required for services provided by the bill and the credentialing of providers section be amended and tightened up.

Federal health reform may also effect the implementation of this health insurance mandate. If the federal law is not overturned, an essential benefits package must be selected for the state. The essential benefit package is representative of the Kansas small business market and will cover providers and conditions in the marketplace as of March 31, 2012. Anything the state requires above the essential benefit package, the state must pick up 100% of the cost. If this mandate is enacted, it will not be in the market as of March 31, 2012. The state must then pay for 100% of this benefit to recipients in Kansas.

The KAHP requests that as you review HB 2764 and carefully consider the impact it will have on the health insurance market and the state general fund.

Thank you for your time and I will be happy to answer any questions.