



**An independent voice for
those served by KanCare.**

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February 4, 2021

Chairman Landwehr and members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services, to testify today as a proponent of HB2160, establishing and funding certified community behavioral health clinics.

KAN is a coalition of more than 50 organizations and individuals who advocate on behalf of and serve and the 400,000 Kansans who depend upon the Kansas Medicaid program, KanCare, and its seven Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver programs for their health care and long-term supports and services.

KAN is in full support of HB2160. This bill provides a more seamless model to integrate behavioral health with physical health. Patients that have chronic health conditions that also have behavioral health conditions struggle to manage both and housing both sides under one roof will improve their care and lead to better outcomes.

We also know that our bordering states have already implemented such a model and are receiving the increased funding. This is quickly leading to a competitive disadvantage for recruitment and retention of providers in our state that is currently mostly at the borders but will creep inward. Maintaining an adequate workforce is important to maintaining a quality mental health system. We are already in a shortage, continuing to forgo this opportunity will only make that problem worse.

Once again thank you all for your previous and continued support in improving the lives of Kansans served by the KanCare program. We ask that you pass HB 2160 out of committee with a favorable recommendation.

Sean Gatewood
KAN co-administrators

