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May 2019

Dear Kansas Legislator,

The physicians of the Kansas City Medical Society (KCMS) have identified “access to healthcare” as their number one priority of 2019, and as the current legislative sessions draw to a close, are advocating for Medicaid expansion in Kansas and Missouri.

On behalf of the 3,400 physician members of KCMS, I am requesting your support of Medicaid expansion in Kansas next year.

Of our practicing physician membership, over 2,000 practice in Johnson or Wyandotte County, and over 70% of our membership treats patients from Kansas.

Physician members of KCMS believe Medicaid expansion is important because:

- Patients can be treated sooner if insured, and the end cost is lower.
- Our community's economy is directly linked to its health.
- It's important that low-income people get the healthcare they need to keep working and taking care of their families.

As Dr. Jerome Adams, the U.S. Surgeon General, shared at our 2018 annual meeting, a community's health and economic prosperity are linked.

Physician members agree that a major barrier to delivering care is lack of health insurance or ability to afford health insurance. Uninsured patients end up getting sicker and needing more costly treatments than if they had been insured and received care sooner.

- The Kansas Medicaid program currently offers no coverage to childless adults and very low-income eligibility limits for parents (33% FPL in Kansas).
- Absent Medicaid expansion, the coverage system in Kansas has a large coverage gap that leaves hundreds of thousands of residents behind, because they make too much money to qualify for the current Medicaid program and too little for a subsidized marketplace plan.

Please feel free to contact me at drbrady@kcmedicine.org if you have any questions, or call our Executive Director, Angela Bedell at 913-269-9642.

Sincerely,



Mark Brady, MD

President