



February 25, 2020,

Dear Members of the Kansas Legislature,

Guided by our values of Catholic Social Justice, we believe it is deeply immoral for anyone in our country to go without medical care. While we have made great progress in providing high-quality health care access to all in our nation, we must expand Medicaid to ensure all those in need of affordable healthcare receive the assistance they need and deserve. We cannot allow anyone to suffer because of their inability to pay for care.

More than 30 rural hospitals in Kansas are financially vulnerable. Without the expansion of KanCare, these hospitals could be forced to close their doors and leave millions of vulnerable people without care. Three hospitals have already closed and many more will follow unless the Kansas Legislature acts. Medicaid expansion would provide these hospitals with the critical financial resources it needs to serve the communities that depend on them. It is morally unconscionable to play political games with the lives of Kansans, especially children, seniors, and people with disabilities.

About 150,000 Kansans have been waiting since 2014 for the benefits they deserve. They should not have to wait any longer.

The Kansas Legislature must listen to the will of the voters and pass Medicaid expansion without any strings attached. Bishop Frank Dewane, speaking for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), has strongly supported protecting the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid Expansion. He stated that it is imperative that we protect the lives of our vulnerable people. We Catholic Sisters stand with the USCCB.

Expanding KanCare is a lifesaving measure. Expansion increases access to high-quality care for those who would otherwise go without healthcare. We implore you to approve Medicaid expansion, because we cannot wait any longer to give Kansans the care they so desperately need.

In peace,

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Atchison, KS

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