



ALLIANCE FOR A  
HEALTHY KANSAS

The Honorable Kevin Yoder  
United States Houses of Representatives  
2433 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roger Marshall  
United States Houses of Representatives  
312 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lynn Jenkins  
United States Houses of Representatives  
1526 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Yoder, Jenkins, and Marshall:

On behalf of the Alliance for a Healthy Kansas, we are writing to share our concerns and opposition to the American Health Care Act (AHCA).

The Alliance for a Healthy Kansas is a broad-based statewide coalition of organizations that have come together to improve the health of Kansans. Our first policy goal is to improve access to care by expanding KanCare, the Kansas Medicaid program. Alliance members include business leaders, doctors and hospitals, social service and safety net organizations, faith communities, chambers of commerce, advocates for health care consumers, and others.

Kansans need your help. They're counting on you to protect their health care and their wallets and vote against the AHCA, the sweeping legislation that is currently being rushed through the Congress.

The AHCA will strip insurance coverage from tens of thousands of your constituents. It will raise premiums and out-of-pocket costs for those who remain covered. It will also shift responsibility for hundreds of millions of dollars in Medicaid costs to Kansas, which will reduce access to care, weaken the viability of our hospitals and other health care providers, and endanger our rural communities.

Those most affected will be the most vulnerable among us – children, people with disabilities, and the elderly that make up the bulk of those protected by KanCare. When federal responsibilities to these Kansans are reduced, state and local officials will be in the position of deciding who to cut. We urge you not to pass the buck and not to let this happen.

The AHCA is bad for Kansas. And it's about to get even worse.

On Monday, House leadership and the Rules Committee drafted an amendment to the bill that prohibits additional states from expanding their Medicaid programs at an enhanced federal match rate. This

amendment, supported by House leadership, seems to be aimed directly at Kansas, where expanding KanCare has broad support and is moving forward in the state legislature. A recent American Cancer Society poll found that 82% of Kansans support this effort.

Last month, KanCare expansion passed the Kansas House with an overwhelming 81-44 vote. And just this week, more than 190 Kansas organizations and individuals, including chambers of commerce, health advocates, faith leaders, doctors, hospitals, safety net clinics, and others submitted testimony to a Kansas Senate committee in support of expanding KanCare.

Kansas legislators back this policy because it will create jobs, deliver much needed revenue to our local hospitals and rural communities, and provide health coverage to more than 150,000 hardworking Kansans. The AHCA, if amended, however, would take away Kansas' opportunity to bring our federal tax dollars back home to improve the health of our state.

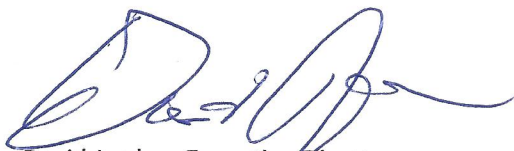
Voting for the AHCA would effectively grant enhanced coverage to residents of the 31 states that have already expanded Medicaid and force Kansans to pay for it. At the same time, it would strip the power of the Kansas legislature to take action to provide this same coverage to your constituents.

National issues may dictate certain voting behavior in Washington D.C. However, anyone voting to limit options for Kansans should be concerned about going against the expressed will of the people. Voting against Kansas-based decisions will create great difficulty in obtaining the support of Kansans in the future.

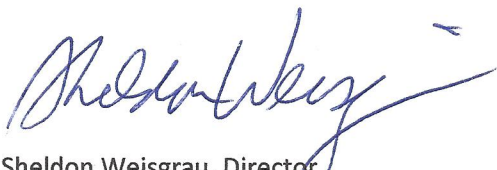
The AHCA is bad policy and bad politics. It does not serve the interests of the Kansans you were elected to represent and it abolishes the power of the Kansas legislature to pass laws that can improve access to care, protect hospitals and Kansas communities, and create jobs.

We urge you to do the right thing and vote against this reckless legislation. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Jordan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Jordan, Executive Director  
Alliance for a Healthy Kansas

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sheldon Weisgrau', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sheldon Weisgrau, Director  
Health Reform Resource Project