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Testimony in support of Senate Bill 459
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Anna Lambertson, Kansas Health Consumer Coalition
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Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 459, which would create a joint committee on KanCare oversight.

My name is Anna Lambertson and I am the executive director of the Kansas Health Consumer Coalition (KHCC). KHCC is a statewide, non-profit organization with the mission of advocating for affordable, accessible and quality health care in Kansas. KHCC was formally created in 2005 by consumer activists, advocates, and foundations that joined forces to build common purpose and action among diverse groups, and to create a unified voice for uninsured and underinsured consumers.

I am providing testimony on SB 459 because Medicaid matters. It matters for the more than 300,000 Kansans who rely on Medicaid, and it matters for the families of some of our most vulnerable citizens who have peace of mind knowing that their children, parents and siblings can access important services.

Given the magnitude of the changes that will go into effect under KanCare, we believe that measures must be in place from the outset to ensure accountability and transparency for the vulnerable Kansans who rely on Medicaid for healthcare coverage. We believe that these important principles of accountability and transparency can be achieved in part through effective legislative oversight.

Legislative oversight of KanCare will be a crucial element of ensuring that KanCare achieves its intended cost savings without jeopardizing the quality of care or services for Kansans. The Legislature must have access to timely data and analysis to evaluate consumer satisfaction, access to services, health outcomes, and cost savings over time.

I respectfully ask you to support SB 459.