

William H. Marting
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Executive Office

January 30, 2017

Senator Vicki Schmidt
Chair of Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
State Capitol, Room 441-E
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Senator Schmidt & Committee Members:

The University of Kansas Health System is dedicated to providing the people of Kansas with world class, medically necessary healthcare as efficiently as possible. The provision of quality healthcare needs to be supported by a payment system that is adequate, timely and efficient. This can be achieved through the adoption of payer accountability standards, uniform payer process and a grievance policy that is equitable and just.

Since the inception of KanCare, our biggest struggle has been with the inconsistent payer practices around authorizations, claims processing and appeals resolution. It is a tremendous administrative burden to accommodate the process variation that exists today across the managed care organizations responsible for this program. These issues only exacerbate the financial losses we incur as a Medicaid Provider.

We believe the passage of SB 69 would bring the necessary structure and accountability to alleviate the unnecessary cost of inconsistent payer compliance standards. This law will help promote a high quality healthcare delivery system that the people of Kansas deserve and which we provide at the University of Kansas Health System. This law is not about increased payments to providers, it is about payer fairness and the provider's ability to be reimbursed for the medically necessary services they provide.

As we renew our commitment to KanCare we need to ensure it serves the people of Kansas as well as the providers in an efficient and effective manner while maintaining clinical and program administrative quality. It is our belief SB 69 is a positive step forward in that process and will start to bring KanCare into alignment with current industry standards. We endorse and support this bill and appreciate your commitment to the integrity of this safety net program that so many Kansans depend on.

We ask for your support and passage of SB 69 and deeply appreciate your attention to the issues it is intended to address. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



William H. Marting
SVP and CFO of The University of Kansas Health System