



To: House Education Committee
From: Denise Cyzman, CEO, Community Care Network of Kansas
RE: HB 2601
February 13, 2020

Chair Huebert and members of the committee. As Chief Executive Officer of the Community Care Network of Kansas (Community Care), I have the honor to represent a network of community clinics providing primary, behavioral and dental care. Thanks to the state's investment, this network (map attached) is one of the largest primary care systems in Kansas. In 2019, the clinics provided care to 317,000 patients through more than 1 million visits.¹ Each clinic has a common mission to serve all, regardless of who they are, how much money they make, where they live, or if they have health insurance. Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony as you consider House Bill 2601, an act related to childhood immunizations. **Community Care stands in opposition to the proposed amendments.**

That Kansas needs to improve childhood immunization rates is without question. According to Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Secretary Lee Norman in the state chief medical officer's recent State of the Health of Kansas report, the state ranks among the lowest. For children age 19-35 months, Kansas ranks 32nd in the nation with only a 69% completion rate.

When a high percentage of the population is vaccinated, it is difficult for infectious diseases to spread, because there are not many people who can be infected. For example, if someone with measles is surrounded by people who are vaccinated against measles, the disease cannot easily be passed on to anyone, and it will quickly disappear again. This is good for everyone. It is especially important for people who do not receive vaccines because they are too young or old, immuno-compromised, are allergic to the vaccine, or have other medical reasons. Such exemptions are allowed by law in Kansas, as are those based on religious beliefs.

Increasing and maintaining high rates of immunization against any number of diseases falls under the purview of the KDHE Secretary. Current law empowers the Secretary to adopt rules and regulations surrounding what immunizations are required for students entering public schools for the first time. Changes to such requirements are based on scientific standards, supported by data and evidence, subject to public comment, and made only if the medicine is sound.

HB 2601 attempts to move the decision-making about immunizations from the state's chief medical officer to the Kansas Legislature. While there are doctors, physicians and other medical practitioners elected to this body, they are far from a majority. In essence, this proposed amendment would allow non-medical professionals to determine medical practice that may be contrary to scientific evidence and current standards of care.

¹ Community Care Network of Kansas. Quality Reporting System (QRS): 2019 Preliminary Data. Accessed on 2.10.2020.



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Additionally, some federal, state, and private funding are linked to immunization rates with the ultimate goal to meet national standards and benchmarks. For example, Kansas community health centers have a clinical quality measure for childhood immunization status. Not making progress toward meeting the national benchmark for this measure – or even worse, moving away from the benchmark – could jeopardize funding. This, in turn, could mean health centers have less funding to provide the care their communities rely on.

The Community Care Network of Kansas is opposed to the provisions of HB 2601 transfer the authority of the Secretary of KDHE to determine immunizations required for students entering public schools to the Kansas legislature.

Thank you.

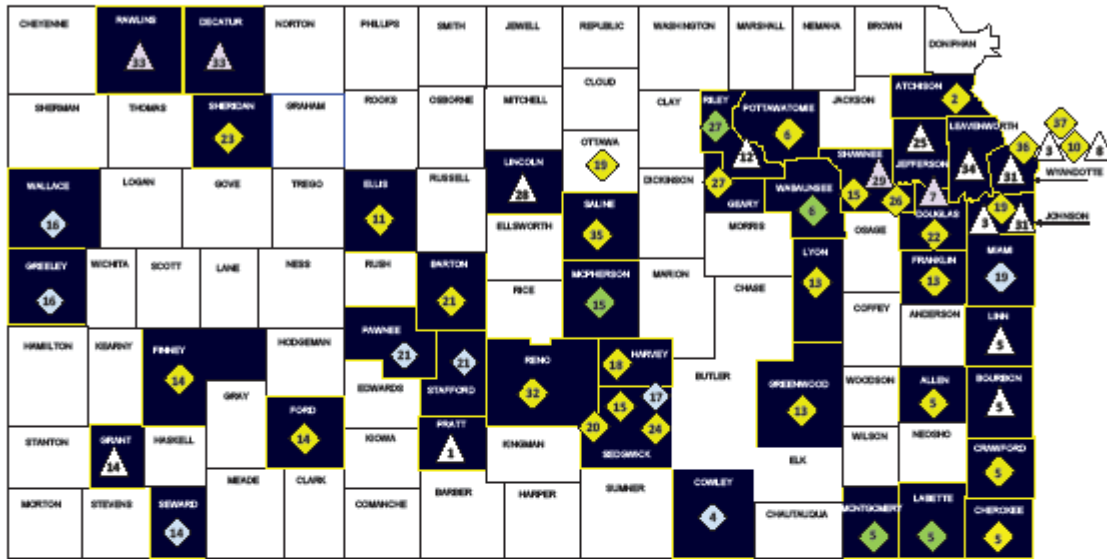


COMMUNITY CARE NETWORK OF KANSAS



COMMUNITY CARE NETWORK OF KANSAS

2020 Member Clinics



◆ Medical, Dental, and Behavioral Health Services

- 2. Atchison Community Health Clinic
- 5. Community Health Center of SE Kansas
- 6. Community Care Ministries
- 11. First Care Clinic
- 13. Flint Hills Community Health Center
- 15. GraceMed Health Clinic
- 14. Genesis Family Health
- 18. Health Ministries Clinic
- 19. Health Partnership Clinic
- 20. HealthCore Clinic
- 21. Heart of Kansas Family Health Care
- 22. Heartland Community Health Center
- 23. Hoxie Medical Clinic
- 24. Hunter Health in Sedgwick County
- 26. Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program (a voucher program with 140 access points)
- 27. Konza Prairie Community Health & Dental Center
- 32. PrairieStar Health Center
- 35. Salina Family Healthcare Center
- 10. Sharon Lee Family Clinic
- 36. Swope Health
- 37. Vibrant Health

◆ Medical & Dental Services

- 5. Community Health Center of SE Kansas
- 6. Community Care Ministries
- 27. Konza Prairie Community Health & Dental Center
- 15. GraceMed Health Clinic

△ Medical Services only

- 1. Agape Health Clinic
- 3. Children's Mercy West, Cordell Meeks Clinic
- 5. Community Health Center of SE Kansas
- 8. Duchesne - Caritas Clinic,
- 12. Flint Hills Community Clinic
- 14. Genesis Family Health
- 25. Jefferson County Health Department**
- 28. Lincoln County Medical Services
- 31. Mercy and Truth Medical Missions
- 34. Saint Vincent - Caritas Clinics

◆ Medical & Behavioral Health Services

- 4. Community Health Center in Cowley County
- 14. Genesis Family Health
- 16. Greeley County Health Services
- 17. Guadalupe Clinic
- 19. Health Partnership Clinic
- 21. Heart of Kansas Family Health Care

△ Dental Services only

- 7. Douglas County Dental Clinic
- 29. Marian Dental Clinic
- 33. Rawlins County Dental Clinic

Updated December 12, 2019