



**COMMUNITY CARE  
NETWORK OF KANSAS**

Health. Equity. Justice.

To: House Insurance and Pensions Committee  
From: Denise Cyzman, CEO, Community Care Network of Kansas  
RE: House Bill 2129  
February 10, 2021

Chair Steven Johnson and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of House Bill 2129, which would provide tobacco cessation benefits for enrollees in the state healthcare benefits program established under K.S.A. 75-6501. I am Denise Cyzman, CEO of the Community Care Network of Kansas. Community Care represents a network of community-based clinics that specialize in serving our most vulnerable Kansans. Last year, they served one in 10 Kansans. The 292,000 patients who made more than 935,000 visits to these clinics last year disproportionately represent the working poor, the uninsured and those who receive health coverage via Medicaid. Clinics provide whole-person care including medical, dental, mental health, substance use disorder, case management, and wrap-around services to meet transportation and other social and economic needs. They also provide tobacco use screening and cessation intervention services.

As a healthcare provider system, we know the detrimental impact that tobacco can have on a person's health. Tobacco use can lead to cancer, poor oral health, heart disease and other health issues. We also know that proactive smoking cessation treatment includes reduced healthcare spending, increased worker productivity, and longer life expectancy for the former smoker as well as reductions in secondhand smoke exposure for others. As people get healthier, they miss fewer days from work, spend less of their paycheck on healthcare, and help boost the economy.

Community Care believes that greater access to tobacco cessation products, treatment and counseling will lead to overall better health outcomes. We support HB 2129.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Denise Cyzman  
Chief Executive Officer  
Community Care Network of Kansas