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**Testimony on Senate Bill 407
Public Health and Welfare Committee
LaTonya Palmer, *Director of Eligibility*
Kansas Department of Health and Environment
February 17, 2022**

Chairman Hilderbrand and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment Division of Health Care Finance (KDHE-DHCF) appreciates the opportunity to present proponent testimony for Senate Bill 407. KDHE supports SB 407 because it would remove obsolete language from the CHIP statute and align CHIP eligibility with current federal poverty level thresholds.

Section 1(b)(8) would strike an outdated waiting period provision that became unenforceable following the passage of the Affordable Care Act. This would allow the statute to match actual state policy and reduce confusion as to state CHIP requirements.

Section 1(b)(7) would make it easier for families to determine whether a child may be eligible for CHIP coverage. Right now, the CHIP eligibility limit is set at 250% of the 2008 federal poverty levels (FPL). This outdated standard makes it harder for applicants to determine whether their child may be eligible for coverage. It also requires state Medicaid staff to continuously translate the statutory Kansas CHIP eligibility standard to current FPL levels: 250% of the 2008 FPL translates to 230% of the current FPL. Setting the CHIP eligibility threshold at 250% of the current year's FPL would ease the administrative burden for state Medicaid staff.

In short, KDHE supports SB 407 because it would help make the CHIP program more efficient. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today.

LaTonya Palmer
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