



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Community Care Network of Kansas Supports KanCare Expansion

TOPEKA, KS — Community Care Network of Kansas, formerly the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved (KAMU), stands in support of KanCare expansion – a Kansas-based solution for protecting access to health care, providing health insurance coverage to the state’s most vulnerable citizens and improving the health and financial security of 150,000 hard-working Kansans.

Community Care member clinics – a statewide network of health care providers serving the medical, dental and behavioral health care needs of one in 10 Kansans – are a major primary care provider for Medicaid and the uninsured. In many Kansas communities, community care clinics are the only Medicaid provider. “One in five current community care patients would be eligible for health insurance coverage with expansion, said Denise Cyzman, Chief Executive Officer. “We know that people without insurance often delay health care, which can result in more expensive care and staggering medical bills, the effects of which not only impact the patient, but the community and the state as well.”

In addition increasing access to primary and preventive care, expansion could offset all or a significant portion of uncompensated care in community care clinics – \$45 million in uncompensated care was provided by clinics in 2018. “We know that even if only a portion of this care were compensated, the clinics would be able to serve more patients, expand their services and hire more providers. More providers creates more jobs in Kansas communities,” Cyzman said.

Kansas can make this happen; Kansans want and need it. Polling shows that 77% of Kansans support KanCare Expansion. Over 70% of states – with both Republican and Democratic governors -- have already expanded Medicaid. Kansas is one of just 14 states left that has failed to take advantage of federal assistance to expand Medicaid. In total, 36 states in addition to the District of Columbia have expanded the program.

Community Care Network of Kansas serves on the Governor’s Medicaid Expansion Working Group.

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Community Care Network of Kansas exists to achieve equitable access to high quality health care for all Kansans. As the Primary Care Association (PCA) for Kansas, Community Care supports and strengthens its members through advocacy, education and communication. Community Care’s diverse membership includes public and private nonprofit primary care clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), local health departments and rural health clinics. For more information, visit CommunityCareKS.org. Follow us on Facebook & Twitter: @CommunityCareKS