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Medicaid expansion would give health care coverage to nearly 100,000 working Kansans

TOPEKA – Expanding Medicaid to more working Kansans will bring jobs and money to the Kansas economy, according to a report released today by the Kansas Center for Economic Growth.

One in six Kansas adults under 65 don't have health insurance. That includes employees in more than 150 industries, many of which are critical to the Kansas economy, such as retail sales, nursing, food service and child care.

As the newly released consensus revenue estimate shows, the Kansas economy is improving slightly, and policymakers will have a little more money to spend this fiscal year than previously anticipated. Expanding Medicaid would help to increase this growth and keep the Kansas economy forging ahead.

"Expanding Medicaid is a smart investment in Kansas' workforce," said Brenda Sharpe, president and CEO of the REACH Healthcare Foundation. "When employees have health care coverage, they are healthier and more productive, which contributes to business growth and a strong economy."

The entire report, "Medicaid Expansion: A Pro-Growth Policy," is available on the Center's website, www.realprosperityks.com.

Additional benefits of Medicaid expansion include:

- An influx of federal dollars into the Kansas economy
- Revenue for critical-access hospitals across the state
- Creation of new jobs

"The Greater Kansas City Chamber has been fully supportive of Medicaid expansion, for two important reasons," said Jim Heeter, president and CEO of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. "First, it makes good economic sense. Second, we believe that as a community, we take care of everyone, particularly with something as important as health care."

The Kansas Center for Economic Growth is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that conducts research and analysis to advance state policies that help ensure all Kansans prosper.

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