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KHPA releases statement on Governor's budget recommendations and State of the State Address

The following is a statement from Marci Nielsen, PhD, MPH, Executive Director of the Kansas Health Policy Authority regarding the Governor's budget recommendations, which was released today, for the Kansas Health Policy Authority and the Governor's call for the direction of Kansas health care in the future in her State of the State Address last night:

“The ultimate goal of the Kansas Health Policy Authority is to improve the health of Kansans – which includes ensuring appropriate access to health care services. We stand ready to work with the Governor, Legislature, and stakeholders to focus on common sense health reform that works for Kansas. In our recently adopted vision principles, the KHPA Board embraced the idea that all Kansans should have access to patient-centered health care. Based on her comments in the State of the State Address, Governor Sebelius clearly shares that belief, and her leadership will be crucial to making this happen.

“The Board supports the Governor in calling for funding of Healthy Kansas First Five. This is an investment in the future of Kansas that promotes positive health outcomes for our youngest citizens and in the long run saves the State dollars by giving children a healthy start to life.

“We were also encouraged that the Governor's budget provides some funding for much needed staff positions at the KHPA. We will work with the Legislature to complete our staffing and infrastructure support, as well as assist us in the Medicaid enrollment process at the Clearinghouse. In our new role as an independent agency, it is vital that we have the staffing and support needed to fulfill our statutory mission.

“The Kansas Health Policy Authority Board and I look forward to partnering with the Governor and Legislature on a number of health policy initiatives to ensure accessibility of quality health care to Kansans. Collaboration and leadership are critical to the success of health care reform in Kansas.”

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