

Coalition of Local Chambers

The Voice for over 13,000 Kansas Businesses

The coalition of local chambers of commerce listed below, representing more than 13,000 Kansas businesses, small and large, are aware of the difficult choices state government has been faced with in recent years with a challenging economy and dwindling revenues.

Our Kansas local chambers, governed by local businesses, believe it is critical to emphasize how statewide decisions impact efforts to attract and retain jobs in cities across our state. State Government is responsible to educate our children, provide certain levels of infrastructure for travel of our citizens as well as the movement of goods and services, and additionally to care for a percent of our population which do not have the ability to care for themselves.

We have joined together to present these position statements to advocate for policies which we believe create a strong economy, a qualified and nimble workforce, a sustainable infrastructure and ultimately a quality of life which retains our best and brightest and attracts businesses and talent to Kansas. Our members stand ready to work with you to bring our collective vision to reality.

KANCARE/MEDICAID

The Coalition believes that access to health care is one of the keys to a productive and efficient workforce and is a top consideration in locating and operating businesses. Currently, KanCare is cumbersome and costly for providers, especially smaller providers, to deal with. In addition, health care costs of uninsured individuals are being passed on to businesses and providers throughout the state. Thus, the Coalition supports legislative action that:

- positions Kansas to respond to changes in the ACA and take advantage of available federal funds;
- improves the quality, organization and efficiency of the KanCare system; and
- adopts a Kansas-designed program to expand eligibility for Medicaid coverage.

See back for endorsements

These local chambers have endorsed this 2017 Legislative Position as of February 9, 2017:

Derby Chamber of Commerce – Mark Staats, President & CEO
DeSoto Chamber of Commerce – Sara Ritter, IOM, Executive Director
Emporia Area Chamber of Commerce – Jeanine McKenna, IOM, President & CEO
Garden City Area Chamber of Commerce – Steve Dyer, IOM, President
Gardner Edgerton Chamber of Commerce – Jason Camis, IOM, President
Grant County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism – Marieta Hauser, Director
Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce – Matt Pivarnik, IOM, CCE, President & CEO
Hutchison/Reno County Chamber of Commerce – Kirk Johnson, Interim President
Junction City Area Chamber of Commerce – Dennis Beeson, President & CEO
Kansas City Chamber of Commerce – Joe Reardon, President & CEO
Lawrence Chamber of Commerce – Larry McElwain, President & CEO
Leawood Chamber of Commerce – Kevin Jeffries, President & CEO
Liberal Area Chamber of Commerce – Rozelle Webb, CEO
Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce – Lyle Butler, IOM, President & CEO
Northeast Johnson County Chamber of Commerce – Deb Settle, President & CEO
Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce – John Coen, President & CEO
Overland Park Chamber of Commerce – Tracey Osborne, IOM, CCE, President
Pittsburg Area Chamber of Commerce – Blake Benson, IOM, CCE, President
Salina Area Chamber of Commerce – Don Weiser, IOM – President & CEO
Shawnee Chamber of Commerce – Linda Leeper, IOM, President & CEO