

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Lt. Gov. Colyer: Legislative Oversight Essential to Providing
Highest Quality of Services under KanCare**

Topeka— Kansas Lieutenant Governor Jeff Colyer, M.D., and Governor Sam Brownback's Cabinet secretaries for health and human services agencies today applauded Kansas Sen. Vicki Schmidt (R-Topeka) and Rep. Brenda Landwehr (R-Wichita) and their colleagues for introducing legislation in their respective chambers this week to establish the Joint Committee on KanCare Oversight.

Lt. Gov. Colyer, Health and Environment Secretary Robert Moser, M.D., Aging Secretary Shawn Sullivan and Social and Rehabilitation Services Secretary Phyllis Gilmore worked with the legislators on their respective bills. They agree that legislative oversight of KanCare is an essential component to providing the highest quality of services to Kansans when KanCare is implemented in January 2013.

"For more than a year, the Administration has been dedicated to a transparent process in remaking the state's Medicaid program. These proposed bills are an important part of continuing our accountability to the people of Kansas," Lt. Gov. Colyer said. "Legislative oversight will be key in accomplishing the objectives of KanCare that lead to improved delivery of health care to Medicaid consumers."

Gov. Brownback introduced KanCare in November 2011 after 10 months of soliciting input and suggestions from Kansans interested in improving and sustaining the Medicaid program. The request for proposals from integrated care organizations closed Feb. 22, and the review of bids is ongoing.

Throughout the extensive 2011 consultation process, the Sub-Cabinet Working Group on Medicaid Reform talked to Kansans about what they would want to see in a Medicaid system that works best for them. The concepts that were heard repeatedly included integrated, whole-person care; a path to independence; options for how to access care, including community-based services. KanCare will address the shortcomings in the current system through a unique model of care that holds the State of Kansas and three integrated care companies accountable.

"I commend the bi-partisan group of legislators for their support of these important oversight bills. They have demonstrated their commitment to our most vulnerable Kansans through continual analysis and assessment of Medicaid policies," Colyer said.

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