

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **The Flint Hills Center Releases Medicaid Reform Plan**

*Expert's plan will rein in spending, empower beneficiaries, and improve quality of care*

(WICHITA) – The Flint Hills Center today releases “[Reforming Medicaid in Kansas: A Market-Based Approach](#),” a comprehensive plan designed to not only prevent the troubled program from collapse, but re-envision Medicaid as both cost-effective and quality-driven. The study, authored by Medicaid expert Dr. Michael Bond, outlines the necessary steps for Kansas to join other states in updating the program’s outdated model for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

This new approach, currently under active consideration or implementation in several states, includes the following components:

- Create an Insurance and Provider Exchange – or health-mart – where providers offer prepaid services to beneficiaries.
- Establish credits for beneficiaries to purchase care they need from competing providers.
- Offer “reverse health savings accounts” for beneficiaries to pay them for engaging in behavior that leads to better health outcomes.
- Eliminate counter-productive schemes such as Certificate of Need Laws and formularies.

“Medicaid’s problems exist because of the lack of a real marketplace,” explains Dr. Bond. “Buyers should be free to act in their own interest and providers should have an incentive to deliver quality care in a cost-effective manner.”

The study’s policy suggestions provide an initial roadmap to assist policymakers in the important work of crafting a sustainable Medicaid program for those Kansans truly in need.

“Medicaid’s antiquated design takes a toll on those on its rolls, those seeking to provide care, and those picking up the tab,” laments Dr. Bond. “This need not be the case going forward. We now have the tools and the opportunity to make Medicaid work for all.”

Dr. Bond is the author of several major studies on Medicaid, and is architect of the Medicaid reform framework used in South Carolina and Florida. In recent years he has addressed legislators in Kansas on several occasions, and in November he testified before the Kansas Medicaid Reform Committee.

*The Consumer Driven Health Care Project of the Flint Hills Center addresses the issue of how to contain inflation in the health care market, and, at the same time, preserve an individual’s ability to find affordable and responsive care.*

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*The Flint Hills Center for Public Policy is an independent voice for sound public policy in Kansas. As a non-profit, nonpartisan think tank, the Center provides critical information about policy options to legislators and citizens. For more information, please visit our web site at [www.flinthills.org](http://www.flinthills.org) or contact us at [inquiries@flinthills.org](mailto:inquiries@flinthills.org) or (316)*

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