

NEWS RELEASE

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Flint Hills Center Reviews Important Work of Senate Task Force on Medicaid Reform

(WICHITA) – The Flint Hills Center for Public Policy today released *Staying the Course: Medicaid Reform in Kansas*. The review calls attention to the recommendations within the Task Force report that are most likely to succeed as well as pointing out potentially less fruitful recommendations and offering additional promising avenues to explore. To download the full review, visit <http://www.flinthills.org>.

“The good work of the President’s Task Force deserves a closer look,” said review author and Flint Hills Consumer Driven Health Care Project director Matthew Hisrich. “Kansas legislators took on this task with the understanding that reforming Medicaid is vital and urgent. What remains is following through with those recommendations that will best serve the citizens of this state.”

The Flint Hills review arises in part out of the recommendations put forth by Stephen Moses of the Center for Long Term Care in Washington and Michael Bond of the Ohio-based Buckeye Institute at a recent Flint Hills Center Medicaid Reform Forum. Their extensive knowledge of how other states are responding to the challenges we face in Kansas informs the recommendations put forth in *Staying the Course*.

“These recommendations empower the consumer while at the same time reducing the tremendous economic burden Medicaid places on taxpayers,” said Flint Hills Senior Advisor on Health Policy Dr. Richard Warner, who assisted with the review.

The review’s suggestions for reform attempt to return Medicaid to its original goal of providing care to the truly needy. Recommendations include greater restrictions on access to the program and stronger measures for asset testing. As well, the review suggests promoting Health Savings Accounts and considering HSAs funded through Medicaid. The review also urges that legislators place the cost of prescription drugs in the context of the benefits they provide, recommends exploring the greater use of federal waivers, and encourages the use of federal tax credits for the eligible uninsured.

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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