Why OTOC Says Vote “FOR” Initiative 427

Omaha Together One Community (OTOC) is an organization of congregations and other groups who share a commitment to work for the common good: to build a strong America in which there is mutual responsibility for effective government to create broad prosperity and a better future in which no one is left out.

Who Would Be Covered by Medicaid Expansion, Initiative 427?
- 90,000 Nebraskans, living in both rural and urban areas, earning less than $17,000/year;
  - Adults without children, ages 19 through 64, at incomes down to zero; and
  - Parents, who earn TOO MUCH to qualify for Medicaid (making more than $1,005/month), but earn TOO LITTLE to qualify for aid to buy private insurance on the Health Insurance Marketplace.¹
- Two-thirds of these Nebraskans are employed in one or more low wage jobs where health insurance is not offered², or have unaffordable premiums/deductibles/copays.

What Does Nebraska Gain by Expanding Medicaid?
- A healthier, stronger, more productive work force and citizenry;
- 500 fewer deaths of Nebraskans—our family, friends and neighbors – per year;³
- Economic stabilization of rural hospitals and community clinics across the state;⁴
- Fewer bankruptcies;⁴
- More efficient use of state and county tax dollars;⁴
- Receipt of nearly $362 Million per YEAR in Federal Medicaid funding for health care services that will support clinics, hospitals, and elder care facilities around the state.⁴ That is $992,000 per DAY in Federal funding for health care services that will support 9,400 additional jobs.⁴ This is the return to Nebraska of Federal taxes paid by Nebraskans that go to the 33 other states and the District of Columbia that already have expanded Medicaid.

OTOC Affirms:
- We should not be forced to decide whether we can afford life-saving care – like cancer treatment or heart medication — for ourselves or our family.
- Hard work should not be punished. Medicaid should cover low income workers as they make the effort to pull themselves out of poverty.
- Nebraska voters have the right to choose a healthier future for our families, friends and neighbors, and bring our federal tax dollars back to us.

To be eligible to vote in the Nov. 6 General Election, make sure your voter registration is current. Vote “FOR” Initiative 427, to expand Medicaid in Nebraska.

¹“Who Is In the Coverage Gap in Nebraska?” Nebraska Appleseed, May 2018.
⁴ https://www.nebraskahospitals.org/file_download:inline/bf151a37-b47d-45f2-a212-d42a6f0ed41e

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