



## 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.<sup>1</sup>
- **Two-thirds of these Nebraskans are employed in one or more low wage jobs where health insurance is not offered<sup>2</sup>, 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;<sup>3</sup>
- Economic stabilization of rural hospitals and community clinics across the state;<sup>4</sup>
- Fewer bankruptcies;<sup>4</sup>
- More efficient use of state and county tax dollars;<sup>4</sup>
- 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. <sup>4</sup> That is \$992,000 per DAY in Federal funding for health care services that will support 9,400 additional jobs.<sup>4</sup> 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.***

Douglas County Election Commission- 402-444-8683;

Sarpy County Election Commission - 402-593-2167

9-15-18

<sup>1</sup>“Who Is In the Coverage Gap in Nebraska?” Nebraska Appleseed, May 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Dee Mahan, “Closing the Coverage Gap in Nebraska: Health Insurance for Working Individuals and Families,” Families USA, Dec. 2014, [http://familiesuse.org/sites/default/files/product\\_documents/MCD\\_Nebraska%20Medicaid%20gap%20and%20employment\\_final\\_web.pdf](http://familiesuse.org/sites/default/files/product_documents/MCD_Nebraska%20Medicaid%20gap%20and%20employment_final_web.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> UNMC Center of Health Policy 2012, New England Journal of Medicine 2012 & Annals of Internal Medicine 2017. <http://annals.org/aim/fullarticle/2635326/relationship-health-insurance-mortality-lackinsurance-deadly> Cited in: <http://www.unmc.edu/publichealth/chp/research/lb546.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.nebraskahospitals.org/file\\_download/inline/bf151a37-b47d-45f2-a212-d42a6f0ed41e](https://www.nebraskahospitals.org/file_download/inline/bf151a37-b47d-45f2-a212-d42a6f0ed41e)