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Media Release

Rep. Sloan on Telehealth Committee

Rep. Tom Sloan (R, Lawrence) participated in the creation of KanTel, a state-wide committee to advance virtual healthcare in Kansas.

“For many years I have promoted the use of Internet technologies to monitor people with chronic health problems,” Sloan said. “KanTel is an organization to bring advocates together for legislative authorizations and healthcare provider utilization of Internet capabilities for physicians and patients to interact face-to-face outside the medical office. This is a cost-effective means of improving monitoring people’s vital health measurements and improving healthcare outcomes.”

KanTel will advocate for insurance coverage reimbursement parity for virtual healthcare provider-patient contacts and in-office visits. Virtual monitoring of diabetes, heart disease, and behavioral health is effective and cost-effective in preventing hospitalization.

KanTel organizing members included representatives of hospitals, healthcare facilities, KU Medical Center, and Representatives Jim Kelly and Tom Sloan. KanTel membership will be expanded and face-to-face meetings, webinars, and educational programs developed to demonstrate the value of virtual healthcare delivery.

Rep. Sloan is serving his 11th term in the Kansas House of Representatives. As Chairman of the Vision 2020 Committee, he led four weeks of hearings on Medicaid expansion. The Committee introduced a comprehensive Medicaid/KanCare expansion bill that included telehealth components. Rep. Sloan serves on the Federal Communications Commission’s Intergovernmental Affairs Committee and advocates for incentives to deploy high speed Internet systems in underserved urban and rural areas.

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