A healthy work force is more productive and leads to a growing state economy, more local jobs and more local spending. Instead of politics, let’s focus on making health care affordable so that our state can enjoy a prosperous future.

A Medicaid expansion will allow more working-age adults in Kansas to access health care coverage. Extending coverage for working-age adults will help to ensure a healthy work force for Kansas.

The expansion will increase access to health care coverage for more than 135,000 newly eligible adults and 22,000 children who are currently eligible but not enrolled. When parents have coverage, it’s more likely that children have coverage, which is important for healthy development.

For the first three years of the expansion, the federal government will pay 100 percent of the costs of the coverage. Without a Medicaid expansion, Kansas will leave federal dollars — including those contributed by Kansas taxpayers — on the table for other states.