

February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Finance, Governance and Public Safety Committee  
414 E. 12<sup>th</sup> St.  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106  
Via Email: Andrea.Bough@kcmo.org

**Re: Health Forward Foundation Support of Resolution 250176 — Adoption of the City’s Economic Mobility Strategy**

Chairperson Bough and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Health Forward Foundation (Health Forward), I submit this letter of testimony in support of Resolution 250176. Health Forward works to support and build inclusive, powerful, and healthy communities. We support this legislation because it will result in increased economic opportunities for Kansas City residents, leading to better health outcomes.

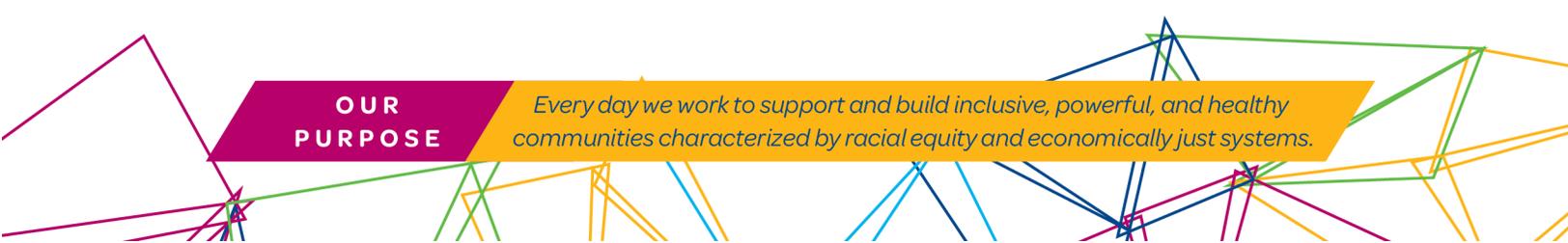
Kansas City, Missouri is made up of many diverse communities that all have unique strengths. The primary strength in any community is its people. However, the communities in which people live can have profound impacts on health outcomes. [Research](#) indicates that while 20 percent of health outcomes are attributed to access to quality clinical care, 80 percent of health outcomes are related to social, economic, and behavioral factors such as access to education, employment, good wages, family and social support, and the safety of our communities (<https://carejourney.com/social-determinants-of-health/>). A [report](#) published by the Urban Institute shows that economic opportunities are often unequally distributed across different demographic groups, contributing to health disparities. For example, racial, ethnic, or gender inequalities in economic opportunity can lead to significant disparities in health outcomes.

Consequently, this resolution, if enacted, would allow the city of Kansas City to adopt policies to advance upward mobility and racial equity, especially for residents and communities excluded from prosperity. Health Forward continues to be supportive of the City’s efforts to implement strategies to enhance upward mobility through the participation of our staff in the City’s Economic Mobility Taskforce and the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Convention Data Walk that took place in October 2024.

Health Forward asks members of this committee to vote YES for Resolution 250176. Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or would like additional resources at [rgibson@healthforward.org](mailto:rgibson@healthforward.org).

Respectfully,

Robert Gibson, M.S, M.P.H  
Impact Strategist - Policy  
Health Forward Foundation



**OUR  
PURPOSE**

*Every day we work to support and build inclusive, powerful, and healthy communities characterized by racial equity and economically just systems.*