

**JOHNSON COUNTY**  
KANSAS  
**Developmental Supports**

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February 12, 2020

To: Representative Will Carpenter, Chair  
Members of the House Social Services Budget Committee

Re: HB 2550 – Home and Community Based Services Rate Increase Bill

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2550. Johnson County Government is the Community Developmental Disabilities Organization for Johnson County. We oversee a network of over 1,700 individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability receiving services. This includes over 700 on the waiting list, as well as the county's 77 service providers that allow these individuals to live in the community rather than in hospitals or institutions.

We are very appreciative of the recent Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) rate increases, but we still see a need to create an ongoing approach to reimbursement rates that ensure quality services. Stabilizing the provider network is a top priority as we are experiencing tremendous challenges to hire and retain a workforce equipped to support the increasing complex needs of those with IDD. The annual Case for Inclusion report, produced by the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) and United Cerebral Palsy, was released showing a national average turnover rate for direct support professionals at 43.8%. Our most recent data was closer to 46% for all positions, not just DSPs, for InterHab members in Kansas. This turnover rate is unacceptably high.

Federal mandates such as the HCBS Final Settings Rule are philosophically sound as the objectives of these mandates for people with IDD include opportunities such as more choices, more community inclusion and higher wages. However, enacting the system changes to help achieve these outcomes does not come with additional funding. These changes are focused on more individual supports, as opposed to congregate, but the funding does not work in its current form.

Stabilizing the IDD system is also important as the waiting list for services in Kansas continues to grow. This bill puts forth a thoughtful approach to reviewing and evaluating the waiting list. Ideally, this approach can lead to an exploration of additional services options that can help lead to an eventual elimination of the waiting list. A list that is currently nearly eight years long.

We appreciate the opportunity to further discuss the systemic need to address funding for IDD services and how we can provide long-term sustainability for a quality service system. We value the importance of our partnership with the State of Kansas and thank you for your support of community-based services for those with disabilities.

Sincerely,



Chad VonAhnen  
Executive Director  
Johnson County Developmental Supports