

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

March 14, 2022

I am in support of Senate Bill 276

Chairman Concannon and House Committee Members,

I am a retired State Employee, who worked 30 plus years with an agency which served persons with disabilities. Much of my time was spent overseeing programs providing support services for persons who were blind or visually impaired. Persons with visual impairments have the same desires and goals as do non-disabled individuals. They want to be independent, to live in the community, to work and in many cases to be a spouse and parent. Decisions which impact children and families should not be based solely upon whether a parent has a disability. Long held stereotypes about persons who are blind, need to be reevaluated. This bill will help to strengthen the parental rights of persons who are blind.

I encourage the committee to strongly consider and support this legislation. Being a parent is an important role in our society and many persons who are blind are "up for this task" but require your support and assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Craig Wayne Goodell

Lindsborg, McPherson County, Kansas

Kansas House District 108