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EQUALITY ♦ LAW ♦ JUSTICE

**Special Committee on IDD Waiting List
Reimbursement Rates and Waiver Funding
Oct. 22, 2021**

Chair Hilderbrand and members of the committee:

My name is Mike Burgess. I am the Director of Policy & Outreach at the Disability Rights Center of Kansas (DRC). DRC is a public interest legal advocacy organization that is part of a national network of federally mandated organizations empowered to advocate for Kansans with disabilities. DRC is the officially designated protection and advocacy system in Kansas. DRC is a private, 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, organizationally independent of state government and whose sole interest is the protection of the legal rights of Kansans with disabilities. We do not provide any Medicaid or other type of services.

Key recommendations

Here are some of the key recommendations I will cover briefly today:

- 1) Add funding over the next few years to add capacity is needed to be able to serve individuals on the waiting list.
- 2) Consider individual budget authority to waiver participants who self direct. This will help them to better address their needs.
- 3) Significantly increase rates for one-on-one services such as the supported employment service.
- 4) Incorporate a process for ongoing automatic adjustment of rates similar to other settings that would take into account costs, goal outcomes, and policy considerations
- 5) Support KDADS bringing in a national consultant to help provide technical assistance with studying the need to adjust rates.

Thank you for the opportunity to briefly talk about some of our recommendations for reimbursement rates and waiver funding with you today. I would be happy to stand for questions now or at the appropriate time.