



Kansas Advocates
for
Better Care

“Advocating for Quality Long-Term Care” since 1975

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February 8, 2010

Rep. Bob Bethell
Chairman House Aging & Long-Term Care
Topeka Statehouse
Capitol Office Room: 55C-S

Dear Chariman Bethell, Vice Chairman Worley and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for hearing testimony this morning on **HOUSE BILL No. 2108**. Kansas Advocates for Better Care supports the provisions of this proposed legislation which would transfer operations of the Adult Protective Services unit from SRS to the Attorney General's office.

Implementation of this legislation could promote:

- 1) Better coordinated action in instances of abuse, neglect, exploitation and fraud for elders and adults living in the community;
- 2) Bring together law enforcement and social services, allowing for an integrated approach to problem solving and/or corrective action on behalf of adults when complaints are made by adults receiving long-term care or on behalf of those in danger from self-neglect;
- 3) Successful intervention and better outcomes for victims in cases of elder abuse or exploitation. This model of coordinated response has proven very successful when addressing abuse and neglect of children and domestic violence in Kansas and on behalf of elders in other states.

The office of the Attorney General would have the opportunity to apply for additional funding to serve elderly victims from existing funds available through the Justice Department and other national sources. This funding could be utilized for training and implementation of a coordinated, service delivery model. Through these grants training dollars would be available to train social workers, law enforcement and other service providers. Results of this type of cross training will likely result in better trained professionals for identifying and intervening on behalf of vulnerable adults; more public awareness of what constitutes abuse, neglect and exploitation of an adult, more reports for early intervention; greater access to services for victims, among others. These results have been seen in a coordinated, integrated approach to dealing with child abuse and domestic violence and it is logical to assume similar results will be seen for adults who are older or have a disability.

Kansas Advocates for Better Care is a non-profit organization that has been serving the needs of elders and persons with disabilities and advocating for improved long-term care in nursing homes and assisted living facilities for 35 years.

Thank you,
Mitzi E. McFatrigh
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HOUSE AGING & LTC
DATE: 2/10/11
ATTACHMENT # 2