

TESTIMONY BY RICHARD SHANK OF HUTCHINSON  
REPRESENTING THE ALLIANCE FOR KANSANS WITH  
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

TO: HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

I AM RICHARD SHANK APPEARING ON BEHALF OF THE  
ALLIANCE FOR KANSANS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES.

THE ALLIANCE CONSISTS OF ORGANIZATIONS IN 17 CITIES AND  
TOWNS IN KANSAS THAT PROVIDE CARE FOR ABOUT 1500  
KANSANS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND EMPLOY  
ABOUT 3000.

DURING THE PAST YEAR IT HAS BEEN MY GOOD FORTUNE TO  
WORK WITH THE ALLIANCE.

AS YOU LEGISLATORS KNOW, FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS TO  
HELP THE DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED HAS BEEN FLAT FOR  
THE PAST 15 YEARS OR MORE. IN 1995, OUR ENTRY LEVEL JOBS  
PAID \$7 PER HOUR. IN THOSE DAYS, WE COMPETED WITH  
NURSING HOMES FOR GOOD EMPLOYEES. TODAY, THOSE SAME  
JOBS ARE ADVERTISED FOR \$7.70 PER HOUR.

SO IT SEEMS THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO COMPETE WITH THE  
WAGE SCALE OF OTHER BUSINESSES.

THIS MORNING I NOTED A SIGN AT THE CORNER OF EIGHTH  
AND TOPEKA BOULEVARD ADVERTISING FOR PIZAA DELIVERY  
DRIVERS FOR \$9 TO \$15 PER HOUR.

THESE SAME EMPLOYEES ARE OFTEN CALLED UPON TO DEAL  
WITH LIFE AND DEATH ISSUES ON THE CRITICAL CARE OF OUR  
CLIENTS.

AND, EMPLOYEES IN STATE INSTITUTIONS EARN FAR MORE  
THAN OUR ORGANIZATIONS CAN OFFER.

HOUSE AGING & LTC  
DATE: 3/28/11  
ATTACHMENT # 1

ALSO, OUR FACILITIES ARE UNDERSTAFFED TO HANDLE THE GROWING NEEDS OF THE RESIDENTS. AS ONE ALLIANCE MEMBER TOLD ME THIS WEEK, IT SEEMS THAT WE ARE FALLING FURTHER AND FURTHER BEHIND WITH MANY OF OUR EMPLOYEES BEING OVER WORKED AND SOME ARE SUFERING THE EFFECTS OF BURNOUT.

OTHER EXPENSES INCLUDING HEALTH CARE FOR OUR EMPLOYEES ARE EXPERIENCING A METEORIC RISE.

IT IS NOT MY INTENT TO BE A MESSENGER OF GLOOM AND DOOM BUT TO STATE THE FACTS AS WE SEE THEM.

REPRESENTATIVES, WE FEEL THAT PASSAGE OF SENATE BILL 210 WILL BE A MAJOR FIRST STEP IN ADDRFESSING MANY OF THE ISSUES.

IN THESE DIFFICULT ECONOMIC TIMES, IT WILL PROVIDE BADLY NEEDED REVENUE TO ALL THE ORGANIZATIONS IN THE STATE WITHOUT COST TO KANSAS TAXPAYERS.

AND, THERE WILL BE NO LOSERS WITH THIS PIECE OF LEGISLATION.

IN OUR DISCUSSIONS OF SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS FROM THROUGHOUT THE STATE, IT SEEMS THAT WE ARE UNITED IN SUPPORT FOR PASSAGE OF SENATE BILL 210.

PASSAGE OF THIS PIECE OF LEGISLATION WILL BE A GIANT STEP FORWARD TO UPGRADE THE CARE OF THE MOST SPECIAL PEOPLE IN OUR SOCIETY.

THANKS REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT OUR POINT OF VIEW.