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Phyllis Gilmore, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

Chairman Siegfried and members of the committee, my name is Anthony Fadale and I am the State ADA Coordinator. My job is to ensure that the State of Kansas programs, services and activities and our facilities such as the Statehouse are accessible and usable to individuals with disabilities.

After the passage of the ADA, the Legislature incorporated Titles II and III into State statute to ensure that our state law paralleled Federal law. The United States Department of Justice recently issued updated regulations which had not been updated or modified for 20 years. After consulting with the Revisers, it was determined that we should update our statute to ensure the public of regulatory certainty as they build and alter facilities. These new Federal regulations also achieve a balanced approach for government and business, while still protecting people with disabilities civil rights, by allowing for practical exceptions and narrow safe harbors the 1991 standards do not have.

Under the ADA, State and local governments are allowed to have statutes which provide equal or stronger accessibility standards for people with disabilities. HB 2193 ensures that we bring that balance and consistency by aligning our state statutes. I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.