



Promoting empowerment and Independence.

Dear members of the Bob Bethel HCBS and KanCare Oversight committee,

I would to thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. My name is Kathy Lobb, I work for the Self Advocate Coalition of Kansas, and I am a person with a disability who receives Medicaid and Medicare services under KanCare. One of the major reasons why, as I understand it, KanCare was created was to save the state money. This money that is saved can make a major difference in the life of a person with a disability. Right now there is a waiting list in Kansas for people who are needing supports and services to live independent and fulfilling lives in the community. The waiting list for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities is currently over 4000 people, people like me who have to wait sometimes over 12 years for services. Kansas has already taken a step in the right direction by appropriating \$9 million for the next two years to help take about 250 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities off the waiting list. I thank you for that.

It is important, however, that we don't stop there. The waiting list is growing faster than the amount of people we are being taken off of it.

This is a problem that needs to be the first priority for Kansas, but it is a problem we can solve. I am asking you to continue to reinvest the savings the state is seeing from KanCare back into the people-people who need to come off of the waiting list. If we invest 60% of the savings from KanCare, we can make sure that all Kansans will received the supports and services they need and deserve. It will take time, but I am confident that the waiting list can be eliminated.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathy Lobb

Robert G. (Bob) Bethell Joint
Committee on Home and Community
Based Services and KanCare Oversight
Date: 10-07-2013
Attachment: 21

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