

Date: February 9, 2018
To: Senator Vicki Schmidt and the member of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
From: Chad VonAhnen, Executive Director, Johnson County Developmental Supports
Re: SB 332, proponent, verbal testimony

For the past 22 years, the Developmental Disabilities Reform Act has guided service delivery for the I/DD waiver. This 1995 landmark legislation, built on focusing on values and individual rights, was life-changing for people with I/DD. They were able to exit institutionalized facilities and enter a choice-driven system of support in the community, where they could live, work, and strive for independence. The DDRA established the Community Developmental Disability Organizations, which, along with the State of Kansas, managed the system's funding with the state serving as the single payer prior to KanCare. The system was essentially operating in a managed care approach prior to privatized managed care.

Months ago, a group of passionate experts from our state's system for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) began charting a course for the future using last session's SB 232 as the foundation. This approach was chosen because the DDRA provides the framework for I/DD services and the thought was that with some updates, it could vastly improve life for thousands of people in Kansas served by this system.

We started by solidifying a foundation of our core values. An I/DD system should prioritize the people we serve, provide sustainable funding, be easy to navigate, be outcomes-based, protect the role of case management/service coordination for families and return control to local communities, closest to the person.

Without question, the DDRA was nationally leading-edge legislation at the time. However, we've learned a lot over the past 20+ years. Much of those learnings happened in the past four years after the implementation of KanCare. I am certain the committee will receive testimony from families, providers, CDDOs and other stakeholders speaking to the various reasons why KanCare has not been a good fit for the Long Term Services and Supports in our system. The core takeaway is that several promises of KanCare have gone unfulfilled.

SB 332 gives the state the opportunity to return to being a national leader for providing supports to people with I/DD to participate in communities across Kansas. This bill retains the heart and soul of the DDRA while modernizing it. There has been a great deal of focus on KanCare related concerns, but this bill accomplishes much more than the carve out.

The legislature approved a plan in 2017 to provide much needed rate increases for HCBS services. This two-year plan to increase funding has been extremely helpful in starting to address the financial capacity for community service providers to hire and retain direct support professionals. This bill includes a mechanism to fund services into the future, helping to expand capacity and experience in the system.

SB 332 continues the commitment made prior to KanCare for people to maintain their case management services. By solidifying the importance of this role as the hub of the person-centered system of supports and

services, there will be continued promotion of dignity and respect for the person served. And, while it leaves the medical services in KanCare, it removes the Long Term Services and Supports, which have never adequately fit in this medical model of reimbursement.

One of the promises of KanCare 1.0 was the waiting list would be eliminated from the cost savings from the program. According to the KDADS monthly HCBS program updates, the I/DD waiting list has grown from 3,073 in the December 2014 report (first available report online) to 3,697 in the December 2017 report, most current report posted online. This 20% increase requires analysis and understanding to create opportunities for these Kansans to access services. The bill creates a mechanism for a collaborative approach to develop a strategy to address our growing waiting list issue.

We will always be grateful for that 1995 groundbreaking legislation, and are confident that SB 332 will take our system in the right direction for the next 20 years and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Chad VonAhnen

Executive Director, Johnson County Developmental Supports