

To: Sen. Vicki Schmidt-Chairperson

Member of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

From: Kirk Davis- Vice President of Program Services, Lakemary Center

Date: February 7, 2018

Chairperson Schmidt and members of the committee-

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 332.

I have been the Adult service administrator with Lakemary since the inception of the adult program in 1983. Those were the early years before the HCBS waiver. I can't begin to tell you how wonderful it was for our great state of Kansas to secure the HCBS waiver. This meant hundreds of Kansans could access community based services. Prior to the waiver individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities could simply not afford to move out of their parent's home let alone pay for residential and day services.

At that time, most all Kansas I/DD providers partnered/affiliated with their respective (CDDO'S) Community Developmental Disability Organizations. We created an amazing system of support for the individuals and families we serve. At that time, Kansas was recognized as one of the most progressive and forward thinking states in the country. This wonderful system thrived for many years until the introduction of Kancare.

Over the last four years we have struggled on a daily basis, doing all we can to fight for the needs of the people we serve to help them simply maintain an acceptable quality of life. It has been an uphill battle. Simply put, the system does not work. It's flawed at almost every level. We spend far too much valuable time trying to communicate with an invisible and unresponsive system. In the good ole days before Kancare if you had a challenge you could call someone you knew in Topeka and get help. Our CDDO's did such a good job of helping us resolve challenges we seldom needed to talk to anyone in Topeka. From Medicaid eligibility to Crisis funding, everything worked pretty well. Not anymore. It's time for change.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer Testimony.