



Feb. 9, 2018

Chair Schmidt and members of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit neutral testimony on SB 332.

We appreciate the effort being made by members of the intellectual and developmentally disabled provider network to move out of KanCare and we understand why. None of the populations served by the seven Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers have been well served by KanCare. While there metrics that show some improvement on the medical side of KanCare, we continue to wait for the State to develop performance measures for long term supports and services (LTSS).

But by the measures we have, and from our conversations with older adults and their families, we know that KanCare is failing older adults who are served by the Frail Elderly waiver and in nursing homes. At a time when the number of older adults in Kansas is increasing, the number of older adults in nursing homes has dropped significantly under KanCare to 8,563 - a decrease of almost 2,000 persons. The number of persons served by the HCBS Frail Elderly waiver also has dropped by 1,013. Combined this is a total of 3,000 fewer older adults being served under KanCare. This is alarming, counterintuitive, and we believe a significant contributing cause is a lack of targeted case management for frail elders.

All of the persons served by the HCBS waivers are equally deserving of a system that supports access to services, quality supports and targeted case management. KanCare is currently failing all persons being served by the HCBS waivers. Carving out one population will not fix the systemic problems that are pervasive within KanCare.

SB 332 shines a light on the failure of KanCare to provide LTSS, but doesn't go far enough. It takes a piecemeal approach by carving out only one group. The time is now to focus on an approach to make KanCare effective for everyone served by the HCBS waivers. We would ask that the committee direct the State to begin developing a workable long term plan that includes LTSS performance measures for all waiver populations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 332. KABC stands ready to work with the State and other advocates and stakeholders to improve the KanCare long term supports and services for all Kansans served by the HCBS waivers.

Mitzi McFatrach, on behalf of KABC's board, volunteers and members

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