



LAURA KELLY, Governor • KATHY KECK, Chairperson • STEVE GIEBER, Executive Director

*"To ensure the opportunity to make choices regarding participation in society
and quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities"*

February 18, 2020

Written only

RE: Proponent House Bill 2549

Testimony by: Jeff Schroeder, Public Policy Coordinator
Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities

Chairman Carpenter and members of the House Social Services Budget Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony to your committee today. The Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities (KCDD) would like to express its support of HB 2549.

KCDD is made up of self-advocates, family members, state agencies, and our partners identified in the Federal Developmental Disabilities Act. The Council is to advise policy makers on issues impacting people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their families.

Federal law allows states to set protected income levels at 300% of Social Security Income (SSI). We are respectfully asking that HB 2549 be amended and increase the Kansas Protected Income Level (PIL) to the federal maximum allowed amount of 300% SSI.

We believe that increasing the PIL for persons receiving HCBS services will allow individuals to have a little more control of their lives and possibly help them on a path out of poverty, increasing their quality of life which directly impacts their health and creates a better Kansas.

Thank you for your support of individuals being served by the HCBS waivers and we respectfully request that you amend HB 2549 and increase the PIL to the maximum allowed under federal law of 300% SSI.