



Families Together, Inc.

Parent Training & Information Centers for Kansas

Home Page:
www.familiestogetherinc.org

Administrative Center
313 N. Seneca
Wichita, Kansas 67203-5951
Voice/TDD (316) 945-7747
1-888-815-6364
Fax (316) 263-0031

Wichita Parent Center
3033 W. 2nd, Suite 106
Wichita, KS 67203-5369
Voice/TDD (316) 945-7747
1-888-815-6364
Fax (316) 945-7795
wichita@familiestogetherinc.org

Topeka Parent Center
5611 S.W. Barrington Court South,
Suite 120
Topeka, KS 66614
Voice/TDD (785) 233-4777
1-800-264-6343
Fax (785) 233-4787
topeka@familiestogetherinc.org

Garden City Parent Center
1518 Taylor Plaza
Garden City, KS 67846-4055
Voice/TDD (620) 276-6364
1-888-820-6364
Espanol (620) 276-2380
Fax (620) 276-3488
gardencity@familiestogetherinc.org

Statewide Spanish Parent Line
1-800-499-9443

Date of testimony: March 13, 2019 Bill Number: 2034
Testimony by: Organization/Business Families Together, Inc.
In support: X

Testimony in Favor of HB 2034

Senator Wilborn and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on behalf of Families Together, Inc., a non-profit organization which serves Kansas families who have children with disabilities or special health care needs. It is our mission to encourage, educate and empower families and their sons and daughters with disabilities to be effective advocates. We are the Parent Training and Information Center designated by the Federal Department of Education to assist families in understanding and navigating the Special Education system as well as the Family to Family Health Information Center designated by Health Resources and Services Administration-Maternal Child Health Bureau.

Supported Decision Making (SDM) is a recognized alternative to guardianship where people with disabilities use friends, family members, and professionals to help them understand the situations and choices they face, so they may make their own decision without the need for a guardian. Parents are encouraged to support their child/young adult with special needs to be a voice for themselves and help them to direct their own lives. Supported Decision Making engages a team approach that is non restrictive and enables the individual to be the center of the decision making process. Thus, allowing them to make those "typical" mistakes that are a part of the every day life.

On behalf of Families Together, Inc., I urge you to support HB 2034; I feel it would be a huge step forward for families, individuals with disabilities, and communities across Kansas.

Sincerely,

Lesli Girard

Lesli Girard
Project Director
Families Together, Inc.
<http://www.familiestogetherinc.org/>

Assisting Parents and Their Sons and Daughters with Disabilities