



EQUALITY ♦ LAW ♦ JUSTICE

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Proponent for HB 2507
House Judiciary Committee
February 8, 2022

Chairman Patton and members of the committee:

My name is Mike Burgess. I am the Director of Policy & Outreach at the Disability Rights Center of Kansas (DRC). DRC is a public interest legal advocacy organization that is part of a national network of federally mandated organizations empowered to advocate for Kansans with disabilities. DRC is officially designated by the State of Kansas as Kansas' protection and advocacy system. DRC is a private, 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, organizationally independent of state government and whose focus is the protection and enhancement of the rights of Kansans with disabilities.

I would like to share our support for HB2507.

A key change in this bill is adding disability on line 10.

(a) Denial of civil rights is intentionally denying to another person, on account of the race, color, ancestry, *disability*, national origin or religion of such other person the full and equal:

People with disabilities should be included in this list of people with this protection.

There are a number of other federal and state laws that provide protections and grant rights to people with disabilities. Some of those include the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Kansas Act Against Discrimination to name a few.

We definitely believe adding disability to the list in this bill is a good change and appreciate the opportunity to share our support for HB2507.