



An independent voice for
those served by KanCare.

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Chair McGinn and members of the Senate Committee on Local Government; thank you for the opportunity to oppose SB 316 on behalf of the KanCare Advocates Network (KAN). KAN is a coalition of more than 50 organizations and individuals who advocate on behalf of and serve and the 400,000 Kansans who depend upon the Kansas Medicaid program, KanCare, and its seven Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver programs for their health care and long-term supports and services.

SB 316 would allow municipalities to discriminate against people with mental health disorders, older adults and people with disabilities by restricting zoning requirements for group homes. Building and promoting integrated and inclusive communities across Kansas is a basic tenet among KAN and its partners. People with disabilities and older adults often struggle to find housing that is affordable and accessible for their needs. Restrictions, such as those allowed under SB 316, only adds more red tape to their challenges and serves only to further limit their housing options. As a matter of principle, we believe that an inclusive culture benefits a community as a whole when it provides a variety of settings for people to live in the community, in the least restrictive setting of their choice.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to testify. We ask you to reject Sb 316 and this proposal to discriminate against persons with disabilities and older adults.

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