

**Senate Committee on Local Government
February 1, 2022
Lou Ann Kibbee, Systems Advocacy Manager**

Thank you Chairperson McGinn and committee members for allowing me to present my written testimony to you. My name is Lou Ann Kibbee and I am the Systems Advocacy Manager for Southeast Kansas Independent Living (SKIL) Resource Center. SKIL is a Center for Independent Living that advocates for the rights of, and provides services to, thousands of people of all ages with all types of disabilities annually across the State of Kansas. We fight for justice and equality with and for them, to have the same opportunities as other people do. Opportunities to live in our homes, receive the supports and services needed, receive an equal education leading to a productive and fulfilling vocation, develop relationships and families as desired, get involved in our communities, and partake in recreation and hobbies as we choose. We are driven by a philosophy of consumer choice, in that we have the freedom to make decisions and choices about our lives, as well as having the dignity of risk.

SKIL is in opposition of SB316 which limits where people with disabilities can live in our communities. According to Federal law, the Americans with Disabilities Act, all people with disabilities have the right to live in a community where we choose. This should be our choice and not limited by any ordinance, resolution, or regulation. This bill proposes such to regulate where people with disabilities are allowed to live. This is what has long been termed the NIMBY effect—Not In My Back Yard. There was a big problem in the 1990's with municipalities in Kansas not allowing group homes to be set up in their communities because neighbors did not want "those people" in their "backyards" or neighborhoods. State legislators put a law in place to prohibit cities from regulating where group homes can be located near single family home dwellings. This law was put in place for a reason. The actions of the cities and neighbors were discriminatory. Today this is still discriminatory, as SB316 would restrict where people with disabilities can live in neighborhoods with single family home dwellings.

SKIL asks that this committee not move SB316 forward out of committee. We appreciate your support and are happy to respond to any questions at louannk@skilonline.com Thank you!