



Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities

SAM BROWNBACK, Governor
DAWN R. WILSON, Chairperson
STEVE GIEBER Executive Director
sgieber@kcdd.org

Docking State Office Bldg., Rm 141,
915 SW Harrison Topeka, KS 66612
785/296-2609 1-877-431-4604(toll free)
www.kcdd.org

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

Commerce Labor and Economic Development

Mar. 14, 2017

Re: Neutral testimony on HB 2353

Chair Representative Mason committee members

I am Steve Gieber, the Executive Director of the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities (KCDD). The Council is made up of self-advocates, family members, state agencies, and our partners identified in the Federal Developmental Disabilities Act.

Federal and state laws created the Council to advise policymakers on issues that impact people with disabilities and their families as well as carryout activities that increase self-advocacy, systems change, and capacity building. We funded the Kansas Road Map to Employment that was presented to this committee last year.

We changed to neutral based on the removal of some language and the agreement to work on additional changes this summer.

Many states are moving away from this practice and requiring that organizations no longer pay sub minimum wages. New York State stopped all new admissions to sheltered workshops while the State of New Hampshire passed a law banning subminimum wages in their State.

Disability services are moving toward greater integration and employment in the community. HB 2353 doesn't encourage or support the employment of people with disabilities except with the qualified vendors. We have agreed to work with the group that is bringing this law forward and work on some changes that would bring the State Use Law into compliance with the Kansas Employment First Law and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. (WIOA)

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act created a Committee to study and make recommendations to improve Competitive Integrated Employment. The Committee's Sept. 15, 2016 report recommended that Congress amend the Fair Labor Standard Act to allow for a multi-year well planned phase-out of Section 14© as well as assist state with capacity building of the service system to provide Competitive Integrated Employment instead. Page 29

Recommendations were made to make changes to the Ability One Program, which is the Federal Law that the State Use Law is modeled upon. The Committee recommended that Congress should amend JWOD to fully align the Act with modern federal disability policy goals including the Americans with Disabilities Act the Supreme Court's Olmstead decision and WIOA. This amendment should include provision requiring that Competitive Integrated Employment be a goal of participation in the Ability One Program. (page 56)