



Families Together, Inc.

Parent Training & Information Centers for Kansas

January 22, 2018

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

Testimony in Favor of HB 2034

Chairman and Barker and members of the Federal and State Affairs 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,

Connie Zienkewicz

Connie Zienkewicz
Executive Director
Families Together, Inc.
<http://www.familiestogetherinc.org/>

Assisting Parents and Their Sons and Daughters with Disabilities

Who can help?

Families Make a Difference



You are not alone!

Families Together, Inc. is here to assist you whether you are just starting out or experiencing a challenge along the way. We provide assistance regarding early intervention, education, health care, transitions, and community resources to support the academic, behavioral, social, emotional, and mental well being of children, youth, and families.



Topeka (800) 264-6343 or (785) 233-4777
Wichita (888) 815-6364 or (316) 945-7747

Garden City (888) 820-6343 or (620) 276-6364
Spanish (800) 499-9443



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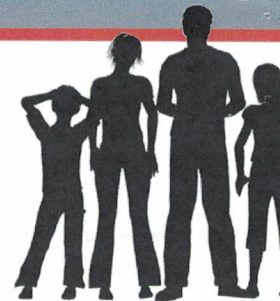
About Us

Families Together is Kansas' federally designated Parent Training & Information Center (PTI) and Family-to-Family Health Information Center (F2F). We provide support for families and their children who have disabilities, and/or special health care needs.

Our Parent-to-Parent program matches parents who have experience raising a child with a disability with parents who need someone to listen, encourage and support them.

Programs and Services for Families

- Services are free to families that include a child/youth with learning, behavioral, physical, emotional, and/or health challenges.
- Individualized assistance and support to families throughout their child's journey birth through age 26.
- Training and resources for transition age youth (14-21) related to college, employment and independent living.
- Safe and confidential support that will help families brainstorm and problem solve.
- Assist families and professionals to understand the complex systems of early intervention, special education, community service and health care systems.
- Workshops and training to increase advocacy skills and strengthen family-school partnerships.
- Connect families and youth to agencies, organizations, and community resources.
- Match parents who have experience raising a child with a disability with a parent who needs someone to listen, encourage and support them.



Organizational Notebooks



Families Together provides many resources and services at no cost, in both English and Spanish, on these topics and much more:

- Special Education Services
- Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS)
- The Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Advocacy
- Family-School Partnerships
- Infant-Toddler and Early Childhood
- Transition to Adulthood

How do I start?

Contact one of our centers

Topeka - (800) 264-6343

Garden City - (888) 820-6343

Wichita - (888) 815-6364

Spanish - (800) 499-9443

contactus@famielsttogetherinc.org

www.famielsttogetherinc.org



How can Families Together help me?

Families Together staff provides families with training, resources, and tools in order to become empowered advocates with and for their sons and daughters.

What can I expect?

By contacting Families Together, you're taking a step toward finding more support for your family.

Our staff are parents and/or family members of individuals who have disabilities themselves; we understand what you are experiencing and are ready to help.