

Self Advocate Coalition of Kansas

Promoting Empowerment
and Independence

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Mister Chairman and Members of the Social Services Budget Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Hal Schultz, and I work for the Self Advocate Coalition of Kansas. I have a disability.

I am very concerned about our state carving DD services into KanCare.

I understand that the way managed care organizations save the state money is by preventing major illnesses from happening before they start; it is called preventive care. I know this because I personally try to prevent illnesses from happening to me by working on weight loss and taking Zumba classes so I don't have major heart problems or diabetes later on in life. These are diseases that can be prevented.

Unfortunately, my disability can't be prevented. There is no way for the managed care companies to save the state money by preventing my disability or anyone else with an intellectual or developmental disability.

The only way for managed care companies to save money with DD services is by cutting the supports that I, and other people with intellectual disabilities, need to live independent and fulfilling lives in the community.

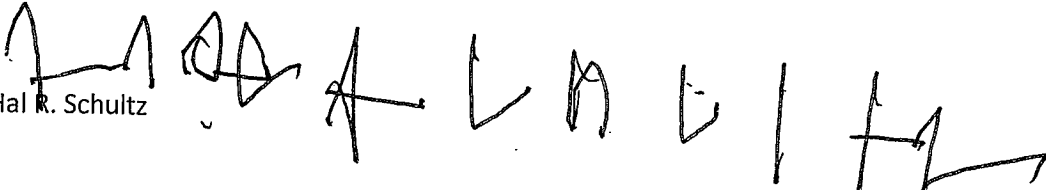
If I can't live independently, it will cost the state more money in the long run.

While our service system in Kansas may not be perfect, it is still one of the best in the nation. We don't want to lose that.

Carving DD services into KanCare won't save the state money. It will hurt those people like me who need long term supports the most. I deserve better than that. I deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.

I urge you to carve DD services out of KanCare permanently once and for all.

Thank you for your time.


Hal R. Schultz

Social Services Budget
FEBRUARY 20, 2013

ATTACHMENT # 1-1