

To: Brian Weber, Chair and

Members of the House Social Service Budget Committee

FR: Alice Lackey, Executive Director , Nemaha County Training Center Inc.

RE: House Bill 2029

Thank you for holding this hearing, Representative Weber, I appreciate this chance to speak on behalf of the persons we serve, their families, and the network of professionals in our field.

I am Alice Lackey, executive director of Nemaha County Training Center, based in Seneca. We provide services to persons with I/DD in Nemaha County, and have done so for 38 years.

I am proud of the work we have done with the Administrations and Legislatures of the past 30 years to create a network of long term services and supports for persons with I/DD. No network existed before the late 70s, and today, because of your predecessors, our network is as good as any in the nation, and better than most. I base this opinion on the conversations I have at national meetings, where Kansas has always been a state to which others look for good ideas.

I support legislation to exclude our services from the KanCare model that the State has chosen to employ for medical services, because I consider KanCare's approach to be an expensive and ineffective replacement for the service we currently perform.

I worry that, as often happens, small communities such as the Nemaha County community, will be the losers in this new top-down model run by insurance companies who:

- do not understand how services are provided,
- do not know the persons whose lives are being impacted,
- do not understand the accessibility problems people have when seeking medical providers, and
- is motivated by financial incentives which will lead to families being placed into a state of concern and worry, and the interests of persons served being sacrificed.

We have a good system of services in supports in Kansas today because you and we worked together to make it good. I worry that all we have work so hard for over the past 38 years will be undone by KanCare, and we will be starting over.

I urge you to apply your common sense to this matter.

- I/DD services are currently efficiently run and locally accountable.
- KanCare is already struggling to implement its medical program.
- Why jeopardize what is currently working by replacing it with something that hasn't ever been tried and is already not working?

Pay attention to the warning signs you have already seen, in Kansas and around the nation.

*Social Services' Budget*  
FEBRUARY 20, 2013

ATTACHMENT #7-1

Pay attention to the voices of the persons whose lives will be most heavily impacted.

Exclude long term non-medical I/DD services from KanCare.

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ATTACHMENT #7-2