



c/o Easter Seals Capper Foundation, 3500 SW 10th Avenue, Topeka, KS 66604

The Alliance for Kansans with Developmental Disabilities

Written Testimony in Support of HB2682

House Health and Human Services Committee

February 17, 2016

To: Daniel Hawkins, Chair
Members, House Health and Human Services Committee
From: Kathy Stiffler Ph.D. for The Alliance for Kansans with Developmental Disabilities
Re: KanCare Waiver Integration

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee for allowing me to provide written testimony to you on behalf of The Alliance for Kansans with Developmental Disabilities (The Alliance). My name is Kathy Stiffler, President of The Alliance and Senior Vice President of Adult Services at Easter Seals Capper Foundation. I have worked in community services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities for 20 years.

Currently in Kansas, most people with disabilities are served in the community rather than in more expensive and restrictive institutional settings. The funding for those services typically comes from a Medicaid Waiver (waives many of the regulations and restrictions of Medicaid funding institutional services) program called, “Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). Kansas has seven separate HCBS waivers: autism, frail/elderly, intellectual/developmental disability, physical disability, serious emotional disturbance, technology-assisted, and traumatic brain injury. KDADS and KDHE plan to combine or integrate these seven waivers into one (with two age related components—children and adults), commonly called “waiver integration.”

Making such drastic changes to already complicated programs requires thoughtful study, strategic planning and a well-thought out implementation plan. Policies and procedures must be developed and as of today, these types of information have not been shared with waiver recipients and/or service providers. KDADS and KDHE are struggling with re-determining eligibility for current waiver recipients among other problems that have been addressed in the publicly. Why are we trying to clean up an earthquake with a tornado? The Alliance supports HB 2682. Thank you for your consideration.