



February 14, 2018

Representative Erin Davis, Chair  
House Committee on Children and Seniors  
Kansas State Capitol  
Room 281-N  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Chair Davis and members of the committee -

The Down Syndrome Guild of Greater Kansas City (DSG) strongly supports the passage of HB 2745 which will establish a taskforce focused on improving transition outcomes for students with intellectual disabilities. DSG agrees that a task force should be established and we would be happy to participate in this task force if invited.

DSG currently serves over 700 families in Kansas who have a loved one with Down syndrome. We provide support across the lifespan and we welcome approximately 50 new families who give birth to a baby with the condition each year. Currently, 80% of our adult population is underemployed or unemployed and this may be directly correlated to poor transition planning as they exited the school system.

Our members often report that leaving the school system feels like going over a cliff into an abyss. It takes concerted efforts, time and patience to navigate the adult service world. Individuals with Down syndrome who have strong transition plans in place throughout high school are much more likely to attend post-secondary programs, obtain employment and live outside their parent's homes in a community based setting. Having a task force in place to streamline this process, identify entry points and age targets for when things should be accomplished and a list of referrals to supports and services will be so helpful to families as they prepare for adulthood.

On behalf of our members, DSG asks that you support the passage of HB 2745. If you have any additional questions please contact me at 913-384-4848. You can learn more about the DSG and the services we provide by visiting our website at [www.kcdsg.org](http://www.kcdsg.org).

Sincerely,

  
Amy Allison  
Chief Operating Officer

5960 Dearborn Street  
Suite 100  
Mission, KS 66202  
Tel 913-384-4848  
Fax 913-384-4949  
[www.kcdsg.org](http://www.kcdsg.org)  
[info@kcdsg.org](mailto:info@kcdsg.org)