



INDEPENDENCE
INCLUSION
INNOVATION

700 SW Jackson St., Suite 1100
Topeka, KS 66603
p: 785.235.5103
f: 785.235.0020
e: interhab@interhab.org

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TO: Sen. Caryn Tyson, Chair and

Members, Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation

FR: Tim Wood, Executive Director, InterHab

RE: SB 211

Madam Chair and members of the committee –

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of SB 211. I am Executive Director for InterHab, which represents community-based service providers and community developmental disability organizations (CDDOs) across the State, and has been collaboratively engaged with the State for every program reform and program redesign for more than 40 years.

InterHab supports SB 211, as it is consistent with the position of our member organizations to support a broad array of services options in the employment arena for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

InterHab has a long and fruitful history of advocacy and education in Kansas. We proudly serve over 40 membership organizations. Whether it be through advocacy before local, state, and federal governments, or through continuing education opportunities for direct support professionals and executives, InterHab strives to promote a stronger support network for all Kansans with disabilities.

Our member organizations are experiencing increased demands to identify competitive and integrated employment opportunities for individuals with IDD. Nationally, there is an overall movement toward full community integration for persons with disabilities in every aspect of life. Due to the continued challenges related to an inadequate reimbursement rate structure for I/DD HCBS providers, the ability to identify and successfully implement innovative opportunities for the individuals we serve is becoming increasingly difficult. SB 211 offers one way to help increase employment opportunities for Kansans with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

InterHab is available for any questions you may have as you consider this piece of legislation.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.