



EQUALITY ♦ LAW ♦ JUSTICE

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Proponent for HB 2150
House Children & Seniors Committee
February 3, 2021

Chair Concannon and members of the Committee:

My name is Mike Burgess. I am the Director of Policy & Outreach at the Disability Rights Center of Kansas (DRC). DRC is a public interest legal advocacy organization that is part of a national network of federally mandated organizations empowered to advocate for Kansans with disabilities. DRC is officially designated by the State of Kansas as Kansas' protection and advocacy system. DRC is a private, 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, organizationally independent of state government and whose focus is the protection and enhancement of the rights of Kansans with disabilities.

I am here today to share our support for HB2150, which creates a definition of financial exploitation, changes the investigation days for cases of suspected financial exploitation and updates the statutes that involve abuse and neglect and Adult Protective Services.

While we had significant concerns with previous efforts to “update” these statutes during prior legislative sessions, DRC Kansas wants to commend the staff at Adult and Protective Services who went above and beyond to gather input from stakeholders on this updated version. Not only did they solicit input, but actually listened to and worked with us to address basically all of the concerns we shared.

This is a great example of how the process should work, and I am happy to share this example with the committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of HB2150. I would be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.