



February 3, 2021

TO: Representative Susan Concannon, Chair, and
Members of the House Children and Seniors Committee

FR: Matt Fletcher, Executive Director, InterHab

RE: HB 2150

Chair Concannon, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to share support for revisions to Kansas ANE statutes contained in HB 2150. The members of InterHab provide services to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) across Kansas. As such, they all too often have been witnesses to the financial exploitation of this vulnerable population.

The proposed amendments to KSA 39-1430 et seq. contained within HB 2150 would create a new definition of financial exploitation in order to better enable the Adult Protective Services division within the Kansas Department for Children and Families to successfully pursue this form of ANE. APS leadership has engaged proactively with stakeholders such as InterHab in order to educate on the proposed changes in HB 2150.

Alleged financial exploitation can be very difficult to substantiate and APS has indicated that they need these proposed statutory revisions in order to more successfully pursue these cases. InterHab's member organizations have often been frustrated to see unsubstantiated outcomes in cases that seemed to be apparent examples of persons who were exploited financially. Without a substantiated outcome, the path to assisting these individuals in freeing themselves from this type of abuse can be increasingly complex.

In my personal experience as a service professional, I unfortunately became aware of several persons with IDD who were strongly suspected to have been exploited financially by someone close to them. My efforts to assist them out of such exploitation would have been greatly bolstered by substantiation from APS of the abuse. I am hopeful that the statutory amendments embodied in HB 2150 will create better outcomes for persons with IDD who become trapped in similar circumstances in the future.

We respectfully request that this committee act favorably on HB 2150 and thank its members in advance for their thoughtful consideration of this important matter.