

February 23, 2021

The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) supports House Bill 2249, which would make permanent in statute a 2019 budget proviso directing the state Medicaid program to increase the protected income limit (PIL) for individuals receiving Medicaid services to 150% of the federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI). The bill would require the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to amend its regulations to adjust the PIL each time there is an increase in federal SSI.

In 2019, the Legislature passed a budget proviso that directed an increase in the PIL from \$747 per month to \$1,177 per month. This change was made effective through a Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) policy on September 1, 2019. Subsequently, KDHE updated its regulations (K.A.R. 129-6-103) to reflect the policy change. This regulation change became effective on January 1, 2021.

As a result of the increase in PIL, 92% of HCBS and PACE members now have no client obligation owed to the state, and an additional 2% have a client obligation of less than \$100. The reduction in client obligations resulting from the increase in the PIL, allows Medicaid participants to pay for items such as clothing, shoes, and other necessities, including groceries that, in turn, result in improved health and quality of life for these participants.

KDADS appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony on this bill and asks for the committee's support of its passage.