

# KACIL.ORG

March 15, 2021

Audrey Schremmer, Secretary  
Kansas Association of Centers for Independent Living  
Written testimony in opposition to HB 2421  
House Taxation Committee

Chairperson Smith and Members of the Committee:

KACIL represents six Centers for Independent Living which provide an array of services and supports to individuals with all types of disabilities and all ages in Kansas. Our mission is to support these individuals to live and work in their communities to the fullest extent possible.

Centers for Independent Living worked tirelessly through this pandemic to keep thousands of individuals with disabilities, Seniors and Veterans safe in their homes. During this time, Centers assisted more than a dozen individuals to move out of nursing homes and back into their communities. We are assisting individuals and their caregivers to receive vaccinations and continue to deliver personal protective gear in our efforts to keep these individuals safe in their homes.

Through all of this, Centers have been asked to perform numerous duties outside our normal activities, with little, to no additional financial supports. Centers have not received significant funding increases in many years and this pandemic has taxed our abilities to serve Kansas with disabilities.

Our members are very concerned that HB2421 will further exacerbate funding shortages for Centers for Independent Living and the nearly 10,000 Kansans we serve. The large cost and components of this bill do not best serve our state in the short-term, given the urgent and serious needs across our state, Or in the long-term, as our state strives to make our tax structure more equitable.

We ask you to vote against HB 2421 and reprioritize your focus on problem solving for the current times by strengthening the state's resources to help struggling Kansans.

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