



Health and Human Services Committee

February 17, 2016

House Bill. No. 2682

Rosie Cooper

KACIL Executive Director

Member Agencies:

**Coalition for
Independence**

Kansas City, KS

913/321-5140 Voice/TT

**Independent Living
Resource Center**

Wichita, KS

316/942-6300 Voice/TT

Independence, Inc.

Lawrence, KS

785/841-0333 Voice

785/841-1046 TT

Independent Connection

Salina, KS

785-452-9580 Voice/TDD

LINK, Inc.

Hays, KS

785/625-6942 Voice/TT

**Prairie Independent
Living Resource Center**

Hutchinson, KS

620/663-3989 Voice

**Resource Center for
Independent Living, Inc.**

Osage City, KS

785/528-3105 Voice

785/528-3106 TT

**Southeast Kansas
Independent Living, Inc.**

Parsons, KS

620/421-5502 Voice

620/421-6551 TT

The Whole Person, Inc.

Kansas City, MO

816/561-0304 Voice

816/627-2201 TT

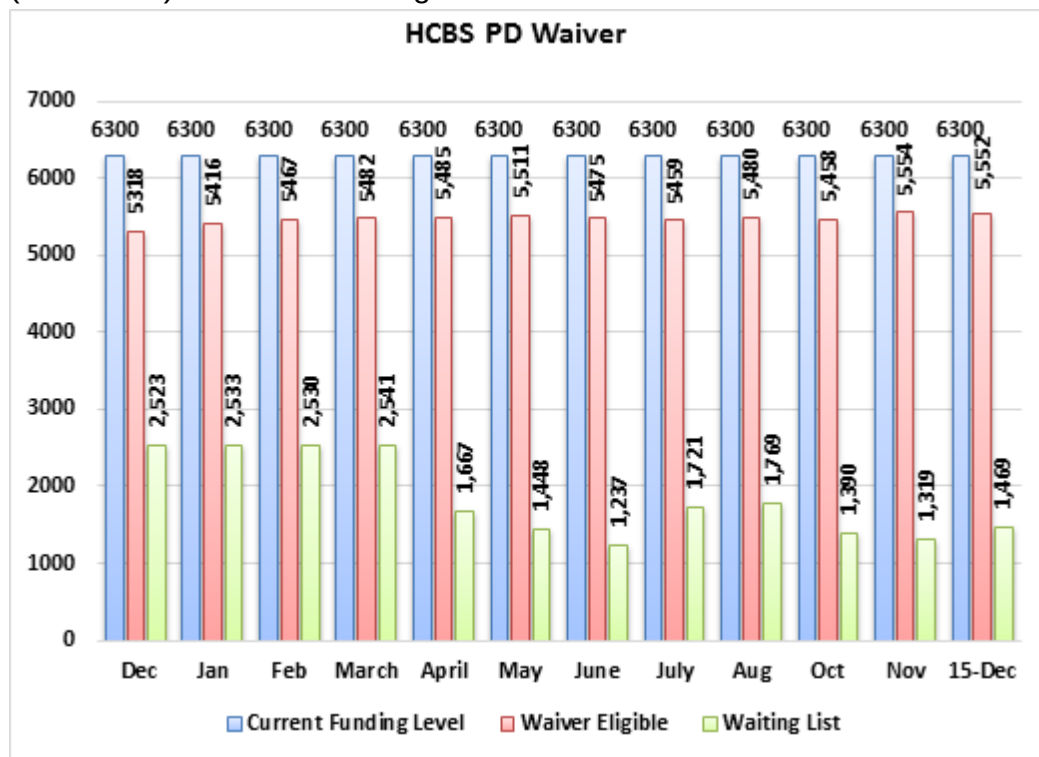
Three Rivers ILC

Wamego, KS

785/456-9915 Voice

Chairman Hawkins and committee members, my name is Rosie Cooper, I am the Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Centers for Independent Living (KACIL). The members of KACIL whole heartily support HB 2682. Kansas will benefit greatly from the transparency and measured oversight this bill will provide.

In January 2013, KanCare began without updated HCBS manuals and policies dealing with the delivery of services. Due to this fact, Kansans' are often left without recourse when the MCO says "we are following state policy" (outdated) and the state says "the MCO's do not have to follow policy." People begin to think, this is exactly what the state wants. This is a backdoor cut to save money. HCBS PD Waiver data appears to substantiate this thinking. The table* below demonstrates that for a solid year PD Waiver numbers never reached the waiver eligible funding level of 6300. The waiting list after a low of 1,237 people in June has averaged 1,534 people monthly, and yet again the PD Waiting List money was taken (2.3 Million) to cover the budget.



*Source KDADS HCBS Monthly Summary reports for December 2014-December 2015.

We need confidence and trust reinstated through the transparency and measured oversight HB 2682 will provide.

The administration might argue that, “HB 2682 will slow down the process” and KACIL members will argue “we can only hope!” We wish to compliment KDADS and KDHE for the bringing the community to the table for integrated waiver discussions and recommendations. However, many community members wonder; “Is this just an exercise to check the public input box on the waiver application?” We need something to slow down the pace and make sure public input is utilized.

In December at the Bob Bethell Hearing, KACIL offered the following testimony. “The entire state is scrambling to adhere to the Department of Labor Final Rule by January 1st. This includes KDADS, KDHE, Amerigroup, Sunflower, United Health Care, AuthentiCare, FMS Providers, and last but certainly not least the people with disabilities who receive waiver services. We must be extraordinarily careful during this time to make sure waiver participants rights under the ADA and Olmstead are respected and protected in Kansas.”

Today is February 17th, we do not have revised manuals, policies or agreements needed before January 1st. The passage of HB 2682 is our opportunity to be extraordinarily careful during this time to make sure waiver participants rights under the ADA and Olmstead are respected and protected in Kansas.”

Respectfully submitted by: Rosie Cooper