



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
785/827-9383 Voice/TT

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

March 11, 2015

Senate Education Hearing on Substitute HB 2170

KACIL Written Testimony in Support

Madam Chairperson and committee members, thank you for taking KACIL's written testimony. Frequently, Centers for Independent Living are asked to assist parents and children/youth with disabilities to advocate for their needs at school meetings. At most meetings, resolution is a result of increased team communication and trust.

Sub. HB 2170 provides a foundation of definitions, standards and policies to foster communication between schools, children/youth with disabilities and their families even in the most adverse situations. By clearly defining when restraint and seclusion can be utilized, Sub. HB 2170 draws a line in the sand that schools, parents and children/youth can depend upon. Requiring the state to provide a list of approved trainings for school districts to use will keep faculty and children safe. Equally important it allows parents to view trained staff as professionals. Another factor that will increase parent trust is the transparency provided by timely incident reporting section of Sub. HB 2170.

Last but not least, Sub. HB 2170 provides families and organizations a process for filing complaints with the Commissioner of Education. Centers for Independent Living believe individuals with disabilities and their families must be afforded the following; complete awareness of the law, access to all information pertaining to them, an equal voice in meetings, and the right to appeal. KACIL believes Sub. HB 2170 provides each of those to children/youth with disabilities, their families, and schools.

Sincerely,

Rosie Cooper
KACIL, Executive Director