

Approved: March 29, 2000
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Representative Tony Powell at 1:30 p.m. on March 9, 2000 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Henderson, excused
Representative Rehorn, excused

Committee staff present: Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Russell Mills, Legislative Research
Winnie Crapson, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

HB 2922:

Proponents

Representative Swenson
Joseph Fehrenbacher
Jeffery Bottenberg, Kansas Peace Officers' Association

Sub SB 304

Proponents

Becca Vaughn, Kansas Disability Rights Action Coalition for Housing
Norma Phillips, Department of Commerce and Housing
Steve Hinds, Wichita Independent Living Resource Center
Shirley Wishom, Stardusters, Topeka
Brian Atwell, Independent Living at Link, Hays
Michelle Campbell, Resource Center for Independent Living, Osage City
Jennifer Schwartz
Michael Reece, Parsons

Opponents:

Larry Ellers, City of Parsons

Written Testimony:

Sharon Huffman, Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns
Jody Anderson, Lawrence
Leroy Bell, Prairie Independent Living Center, Hutchinson
Jeff Farney, Beloit Troy Horton, Center for Independent Living for Southwest Kansas
Troy Horton, Center for Independent Living for Southwest Kansas
Gary Howard, Western Kansas Association on Concerns of the Disabled
Shannon Jones, Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas
Gary Kent, Ottawa
Lou Ann Kibbee, Western Kansas ADAPT
Blake Knoll, Liberal
Kelly Nightengale, Lawrence Independent Living Resource Center
Derek Poppenhagen, Garden City
Betty Richey, El Dorado
Amy Ritter, El Dorado
Robin Tropper, Kansas Disability Rights Action Coalition for Kansas
Cecil Walker, Jr., Douglass
Michael Weekley, Jr.
Danny Ray Wilson, Douglass

Others attending: See attached list.

CONTINUATION SHEET
MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS
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Chairman Powell opened the meeting and recognized Representative Phill Kline for bill introduction request. Representative Kline presented information on violation of federal law concerning harvesting of fetal body parts (Attachment #1).

Without objection bill will be introduced as requested by Representative Phill Kline imposing restrictions on the use of fetal tissue and providing penalties for violation. [HB 3034 introduced March 14.]

Hearing was opened on

HB 2922, Inflicting harm or death to search and rescue dogs, penalty.

Representative Swenson introduced the bill.

Joseph Fehrenbacher, Deputy Director for the Kansas Search and Rescue Dog Association, presented written testimony in support of the bill (Attachment #2). He explained the use of Search and Rescue Dogs and their value.

Jeff Bottenberg, testified in support of the bill on behalf of the Kansas Peace Officers' Association (Attachment #3).

Hearing on HB 2922 was closed.

Representative Freeborn moved that the Committee recommend HB 2922 favorable for passage. Representative Klein seconded, motion passed.

Hearing was opened on

Sub SB 304, Handicap accessibility standards compliance required for certain dwellings funded with public moneys.

Becca Vaughn, Kansas Disability Rights Action Coalition for Housing, presented testimony in support of the bill (Attachment #4). She pointed out the provisions of **Sub SB 304** would apply to dwellings not already covered by existing federal or state laws, such as The Fair Housing Act, which requires basic access in all new privately owned multi-family housing of four or more units; Sec. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which requires a minimum of 5% of the units have full accessibility in all federally funded multi-family units; and the Kansas Act Against Discrimination which mirrors the provisions of the federal Fair Housing Act.

Norma Phillips presented testimony on behalf of the Department of Commerce and Housing in support of the bill (Attachment #5). She presented information on present requirements for funding under HOME and CDBG programs. The department recently announced a pilot program for accessibility modifications across the state funded by non-HUD monies. In 1999 the Department funded a total of 62 units (32 new, 30 rehabilitated). Had this bill been in effect, only about 14 of the total of 62 units would have required additional measures.

Steve Hinds, Consumer Advocate for the Wichita Independent Living Resource Center, presented testimony in support of the bill (Attachment #6). He presented statistics on the number of disabled people in the population of the United States and the state of Kansas. He testified that the few times he had been able to locate an accessible house or apartment for those needing even basic accessibility the rents were so high a person on disability of Social Security could not afford it.

Shirley Wishom presented testimony on behalf of Stardusters Crime Prevention, Inc. of Topeka in support of the bill (Attachment #7). In 1995 Stardusters became the first organization in Kansas to successfully meet qualifying Federal guidelines to become recognized as a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) making it eligible to compete for all CHDO set-aside activities under the HOME Investment Partnerships program.

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Brian Atwell, Executive Director of Living Independently in Northwest Kansas (LINK), presented testimony in support of the bill ([Attachment #8](#)). LINK has five offices serving 21 counties of Northwest Kansas. In 1999 they served 569 consumers.

Michelle Campbell, CAC Coordinator of the Resource Center for Independent Living, Osage City, presented testimony in support of the bill ([Attachment #9](#)). She described the difficulty she has as a disabled person visiting apartments and homes that are not accessible.

Jennifer Schwartz presented testimony in support of the bill ([Attachment #10](#)). She described the difficulties encountered by her daughter Jessica who experiences cerebral palsy.

Michael Reece, Parsons, presented testimony in support of the bill ([Attachment #11](#)). Mr. Reece testified that as an advocate with Southeast Kansas Independent Living Resource Center, Inc., he sees the need for this bill to increase housing options for the disabled.

Larry Ellers presented testimony in opposition to the bill on behalf of the City of Parsons ([Attachment #12](#)). He testified that the requirements for ramps, wider doors, strengthening bathroom walls would impact the Parsons Affordable Housing Program by increasing costs by an additional \$6,000 per home and that the modifications will be very difficult to obtain in an assembly line process. He said that 30% of new housing in Kansas is manufactured housing.

Written testimony in support of the bill was presented by the following:

Sharon Huffman, Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns ([Attachment #13](#)).
Jody Anderson, Lawrence, ([Attachment #14](#)).
Leroy Bell, Prairie Independent Living Center, Hutchinson ([Attachment #15](#)).
Jeff Farney, Beloit ([Attachment #16](#)).
Troy Horton, Center for Independent Living for Southwest Kansas ([Attachment #17](#))
Gary Howard, Western Kansas Association on Concerns of the Disabled ([Attachment #18](#))
Shannon Jones, Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas ([Attachment #19](#))
Gary Kent, Ottawa ([Attachment #20](#))
Lou Ann Kibbee, Western Kansas ADAPT ([Attachment #21](#))
Blake Knoll, Liberal ([Attachment #22](#))
Kelly Nightengale, Lawrence Independent Living Resource Center ([Attachment #23](#))
Derek Poppenhagen, Garden City ([Attachment #24](#))
Betty Richey, El Dorado ([Attachment #25](#))
Amy Ritter, El Dorado ([Attachment #26](#))
Robin Tropper, Kansas Disability Rights Action Coalition for Kansas ([Attachment #27](#))
Cecil Walker, Jr., Douglass ([Attachment #28](#))
Michael Weekley, Jr. ([Attachment #29](#))
Danny Ray Wilson, Douglass ([Attachment #30](#))

Hearing on Sub SB 304 was closed.

Chairman Powell said it was intended to work **Sub SB 304** today but due to the length of testimony and the late hour it will be considered at a later date.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m. Next scheduled meeting is March 13.

HOUSE FEDERAL & STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: March 9

NAME	REPRESENTING
Larry R. Ellen	City of Parsons, Mo
Joseph Fehrenbacher	Kansas Search & Rescue
Paul D Meek	Kansas Search & Rescue
Carla Norcott-Nahary	Planned Parenthood
Jeff Bottenberg	K D O A / K S O A
Shirley Wishom	Starwaters, Inc
Normy Phillips	Dept. of Commerce & Reg.
Gene Hinds	Independent Living Resource Center
Carl E. Walker	RCIL, Inc
Brian Atwell	L.I.N.K.
Amy Bitter	RCIL, Inc
Gene Dubalson	KDRACH
Jennifer Schwarz	
Jessica Schwarz	
George D. Bell	Prairie 102
Mary F. Enck	MC Pherson
Michelle Campbell	RCIL
Betty Richer	RCIL
Danny Kay Wilson	RCIL

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Representative Phill Kline
18th District of Kansas
Shawnee/Lake Quivira
10624 West 61st Street
Shawnee, Kansas 66203
785.296.7693 (Topeka office)
913.707.5757 (mobile)

The Honorable Tony Powell
Chairman, House Federal and State Affairs Committee
State Capitol Building
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Chairman Powell and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to appear before you to request bill introductions. I know that the hour is late for this legislative session, however, the information which recently came to light regarding the abortion industry and the trafficking of fetal body parts in Kansas provides compelling reason for legislative action.

I. Current Status of Federal Law

Currently, federal law allows for the utilization of fetal body parts and tissue for medical research. Such action was prohibited until 1993, when President Clinton, on his first day in office, signed an executive order that ended federal curbs on fetal tissue research, and soon thereafter signed into law the National Institutes of Health Revitalization Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-43) that authorizes fetal tissue research. This law, however, is not without significant controversy and represented a carefully brokered compromise between many parties concerned about the issue. Although the law expressly allows fetal tissue research, it strictly prohibits any alteration of the abortion procedure in order to preserve or enhance the value of any body parts and it also prohibits any profiteering by any person harvesting or distributing such body parts and requires that the mother of the unborn child provide informed consent of the donation of tissue. (42 U.S.C. section 289g-1 et. seq.) Federal law also allows the National Institute of Health to withdraw any federal funds from any research project that obtains tissue in violation of federal law.

II. Evidence Indicates that Federal Law Was Violated During the Harvesting of Fetal Body Parts in Kansas.

Recent investigations by ABC News and the Commerce Committee of the United States House of Representatives reveal strong evidence that federal laws were routinely violated during the harvesting, distribution and sale of the body parts of unborn children. Many of these allegations relate to actions, which occurred in Kansas at an Overland Park abortion clinic. These allegations include the following:

- * Fetal body parts were harvested and sold without the informed consent of the mother;
- * Persons with vested monetary interest in obtaining body parts were trained regarding how to manipulate women into providing consent;
- * Abortion procedures were altered in a manner potentially harmful to the mother's health in order to preserve the value of body parts; and
- * Market forces were allowed to set prices for various body parts, providing for enormous profits for harvesters and distributors contrary to federal law.

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This evidence was presented in the form of oral testimony and interviews, hidden camera discussions with business owners who profit from the distribution of fetal body parts and price listings and promotional literature of companies that sale such body parts.

Specifically, the ABC News 20/20 Special included hidden camera interviews with Dr. Miles Jones, a Missouri Pathologist, who owns Opening Lines, a company that distributes fetal tissue. During the interview, Dr. Jones states that his prices are determined by market forces, discusses the manipulation of women to provide consent and expresses his desire to control his "inventory" by opening an abortion clinic in Mexico that offers cheap abortions. ABC also released the price list published by Opening Lines, which specifically details that body parts that are not damaged in the abortion procedure are sold at greater profit. This financial incentive to preserve the integrity of body parts during the abortion procedure is not only illegal; it also provides a monetary incentive to alter the abortion procedure in a manner potentially inconsistent with the needs of the health of the mother.

Furthermore, a February 26, 2000 article in The National Journal details the purchasing requirements of various research facilities that utilize fetal tissue. Included in the article is an order form from Systemix, Inc. that requests second-trimester legs, arms, livers and spleens to be removed, dissected and stored on crushed ice "within a maximum of 10 minutes after circulation has stopped." This demand necessitates the alteration of the abortion procedure in order to preserve the order request.

Additional available, indicates the possibility of the harvesting of body parts from infants who survived the abortion procedure. This evidence is not geographically specific at this time.

III. Kansas Must Act to End Illegal Profiteering Exploitation

As many of you are aware, I am a pro-life legislator. I firmly believe that when our society allows the most fundamental rights of the most vulnerable to be exploited, not only do we allow and invite injustice; we place all of our rights in jeopardy. I believe these circumstances are but one example of this truth.

Regardless, I recognize that many of you are equally passionate about your position that abortion is a right to be protected. Though I differ, I respect your passion. I do ask on this occasion that we recognize the common ground that we can find relating to these developments.

I believe they are as follows:

- * The health of a women seeking abortion must not be threatened or exploited in order for someone to earn a profit by selling the preserved body parts of the fetus;
- * Actions contrary to federal law regarding harvesting, distribution and sale of fetal body parts should not and must not occur within our borders;
- * Due to the sensitive nature of the issue of abortion and the delicate balance of emotions and rights inherent in the decision to have an abortion, the profit motive should not be introduced and therefore, the concept of the federal law denying such a motive should be vigorously enforced;
- * Kansas taxpayers dollar and state institutions must not encourage or

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participate in any illegal activity; and

* One of the prime deterrents to illegal conduct is the vigorous enforcement of the law and the vigorous prosecution of those who violate the law.

Accordingly, based on what I perceive to the potential for common ground I am requesting the following bill introductions and actions:

- 1) A bill requiring the identification and tracking of fetal body parts while providing confidentiality protections for the mother. The bill will require reporting of: a) the date of the transfer of any human fetal parts; b) a description of the fetal parts; c) the name and address of the transferor and transferee; d) the amount of consideration or payment made for each individual part and e) the method of shipment, including the identification of the common carrier or delivery service making such shipment. All such shipments must also identify the contents of the package shipped. The transfer of any human fetal parts contrary to the above shall be a crime.
- 2) A request for a legislative post audit to determine the following:
 - a) Have institutions or organizations that receive state dollars, utilized those funds to purchase human fetal body parts, and if such purchases occurred, for what consideration and from whom where the body parts purchased. Federal law allows for the National Institute of Health to withhold federal research dollars and to withdraw such dollars from institutions which obtain fetal parts in a manner inconsistent with federal law; and b) what procedures do state institutions or organizations that receive state dollars, have in place to insure that those from whom they purchase parts have complied with applicable federal law. I would like for the committee to draft and approve this request.
- 3) The revival of a bill to regulate abortion clinics in the same manner as ambulatory surgical clinics.
- 4) The consideration of a bill to either: a) provide a moratorium on the use of any fetal body parts for research; or b) prohibiting the payment of any compensation to the harvester or distributor; or c) strictly defining allowable compensation.

I also, have communicated with the Attorney General's office to request that Attorney General Stovall review her authority to investigate these alleged illegalities.

I greatly appreciate your time and your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,

Rep. Phill Kline

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House Bill 2922 Hearing. Amendments to statute 21-4318.**Good afternoon:**

My name is Joseph Fehrenbacher and I am the Deputy Director for the Kansas Search and Rescue Dog Association. We would like to see an amendment/s be made to state statute 21-4318, which protects Police and Arson dogs from harm and/or death. The amendment/s would add search and rescue dogs to this statute and upgrade the penalties. Search and Rescue dogs play a vital role in the area of public safety i.e. the DeBruce Explosion, the May 3rd tornado's, lost or missing persons, drowning victim's etc. Search and rescue dog services are provided either by other public safety agencies or volunteer organizations like Kansas Search and Rescue. When these dogs are working they are working for or under the auspice of law enforcement or public safety. We would like to see the same protection for all Police, Arson and Search and Rescue dogs. *Currently 28 States have laws and penalties that cover include search dogs with police and arson.*

Penalties:

A change in the penalties is needed. The current penalty for a crime against a police or arson dog is a Class A Non-person misdemeanor, which includes a \$1200 fine and/or up 1 year in jail. The penalties need to be changed to a Felony, with the same jail time, but to include restitution.

Harm and/or death: If the dog were physically harmed to the point it could not work or were killed, it would have to be replaced at the expense of the agency or the individual. i.e. A Jackson County Sheriffs officer and his police dog were killed last month. The sheriff's officer was shot ^(but not killed) ~~and killed~~ first and then the shooter went to the patrol car and killed the dog. Not only did Jackson County lose a valued officer, but they also lost a valued police dog. It will cost that county a lot of time and money to train a new dog. There have been a total of 3 police dogs killed in Kansas within last year.

Theft of the police, arson and search ^{and Rescue} dog is another problem that can occur. Because of the unique type of training these dogs possess, they can be targets, either by someone who has a grudge against the police or by someone who wants a nice gentle search dog. They also have been taken from back yards or directly out of their kennels by people who sell large breed dogs to out of state laboratories for research. If this same dog were stolen from a breeder it would be considered felony theft, because of its value being over \$500.

The cost of purchasing and training a Police, Arson or Search and Rescue Dog can cost upwards of \$10,000 depending on the job it is being trained for. Just purchasing a dog can cost upwards \$4,000 before training. In some cities and/or counties in Kansas, the dogs have been purchased and trained with donations only or with city and/or county funds. For volunteer search and rescue organizations, this money comes directly out of the pocket of the individual dog owner. These individuals receive no public funding or donations. Kansas Search and Rescue does not own it's dogs, they are privately owned by the individual. It takes 10 weeks to train a Police dog and approximately 14 months for a search and rescue dog in its first level of training.

On or off duty these dogs need the same protection, the threats can be the same either way.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Memorandum

TO: THE HONORABLE ANTHONY POWELL, CHAIRMAN
HOUSE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

FROM: JEFFERY S. BOTTENBERG, LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL
KANSAS PEACE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

RE: HB 2922

DATE: MARCH 8, 2000

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, my name is Jeff Bottenberg and I appear today on behalf of the approximately 3,700 members of the Kansas Peace Officers' Association ("KPOA"). We thank you for the opportunity to express our support of House Bill 2922, which would amend K.S.A. 21-4318 by prohibiting the intentional infliction of harm to search and rescue dogs.

The KPOA supports HB 2922 because search and rescue dogs are an integral part of the law enforcement community. The help provided by search and rescue dogs in locating victims of natural disasters and man-made calamities greatly increases the ability for law enforcement to find such people. And just like police dogs, search and rescue dogs intentionally place themselves in danger to protect the public. Indeed, the recent intentional killing of Jackson County canine officer Falco demonstrates that all dogs utilized by law enforcement are subject to the same threat of violence as police officers, and their service to the people of this state should be recognized and protected from intentional harm.

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It should also be noted that every dog lost in the line of duty could cost local law enforcement and emergency response agencies up to \$10,000 for the purchase and training of a replacement. However no amount of money can replace the service that police and search and rescue dogs provide to law enforcement, emergency response personnel and the community, as demonstrated by the hundreds of people that attended Falco's funeral. Therefore it is important to send a message that Kansas does not tolerate the intentional infliction of harm to such animals.

Again, KPOA strongly supports House Bill 2922 and urges its favorable consideration and passage by the Committee. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

Jeffery S. Bottenberg

JSB

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Offices located in
the Historic Crawford Building

Topeka Independent Living Resource Center

785-233-4572 V/TTY • FAX 785-233-1561 • TOLL FREE 1-800-443-2207
501 SW Jackson Street • Suite 100 • Topeka, KS 66603-3300

Testimony in Support of Sub. SB 304

March 9, 2000

To Chairperson Powell and

Members of the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

By

Becca Vaughn of the TILRC and KDRACH

The Topeka Independent Living Resource Center (TILRC) is a not for profit disability civil rights advocacy organization, providing advocacy and array of person directed activities which promote independence and inclusion into all aspects of societal life for people with all types of disabilities. I am also the co-founder of the Kansas Disability Rights Action Coalition for Housing (KDRACH), which is a state-wide grassroots coalition of Kansans with disabilities and their advocates, who focus on all areas of housing and fair housing rights. KDRACH initiated introduction of Sub. SB 304.

Sub. SB 304 would require that all single family, duplex or triplex housing built or rehabilitated with public funds, from the State of Kansas, or Federal funds administered through the state, incorporate basic accessibility features.

- 1) One accessible (no step) entrance to each dwelling unit;
- 2) All interior doorways wide enough for wheelchair passage, including the doors to bathrooms;
- 3) Accessible route through the main floor of each unit;
- 4) Wall reinforcement for future grab bar installation;
- 5) All light switches, electrical outlets and other controls in accessible locations.

It is the intent of this legislation that all members of local communities across the state would have equal opportunity and access to housing choices. The provisions of Sub. SB 304 would apply to dwellings not already covered by existing federal or state laws, such as The Fair Housing Act, which requires basic access in all new privately owned multi-family housing of four or more units; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which requires a minimum 5% of the units have full accessibility in all federally funded multi-family units; and The Kansas Act Against Discrimination which mirror the provisions of the federal Fair Housing Act.

Sub. SB 304 is cost effective measure, with benefits to the over all quality of community life. KDRACH has prepared several pages of information which may address any questions or concerns. I have included these info pages here, for your convenience.

I would be available to answers any questions you may have and to address any technical concerns of the bill.

Thank you for your support of Sub. SB 304, as amended by the Senate.

Advocacy and services provided by and for people with disabilities

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Why We Need the Substitute for SB 304

by the

Kansas Disability Rights Action Coalition for Housing

2401 E. 13th St., Hays, Kansas 67601

- **The Substitute for SB 304 is a response to a statewide need for more housing with basic accessibility features.** This need is clearly identified in the current Kansas Consolidated Plan, Revised, Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing, for the State FY 2000-2002:

"In 1990, statewide there were about 107,000 households headed by persons who here 75 years old or older, a good indication of the scale of the frail elderly population. Kansas also contained over 36,000 persons, not living in group quarters, with mobility impairments indicating the vast need for housing accessible to the disabled. Another 70,000 had other forms of self-care limitations requiring assistance in order to avoid having to live in an institution." (p. 129) [143,000 could very well need housing that has basic accessibility features.]

- **The "Kansas Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing, Executive Summary"** by the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing, Fair Housing Task Force, listed first the following major fair housing impediment :

"People with Disabilities Have Difficulty Finding Accessible Housing

The 1990 Census reported that approximately 105,000 Kansans have mobility problems or self-care limitations. More than 50 percent of those reporting each type of limitation were persons age 65 and older. People with disabilities experience the worse case housing needs, and there is widespread noncompliance with the accessibility requirements of the Fair Housing Act. Nearly 57 percent of respondents agreed that the disabled confront difficulties finding accessible housing. Ninety percent of disabled respondents felt that they confront difficulties locating accessible housing. Persons with disabilities, and single parent households, continue to experience both blatant and subtle forms of housing discrimination in Kansas communities and across the nation."

- **The Fair Housing Act (FHA), as amended in 1988, requires 7 basic accessibility features in multifamily housing (4 or more units per dwelling) constructed & occupied after March 13, 1991. The access requirements apply to ground-floor units in building without elevators, and all units in buildings with elevators. The Kansas Act Against Discrimination is the same as FHA. Neither law has any requirements for basic accessibility in single family, duplex or triplex housing.**

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- Existing fair housing law and voluntary efforts by some builders of accessible housing has not met the needs of people in Kansas for accessible housing. Having laws that only require basic accessibility in multifamily housing has led to segregation and isolation.
- **The Substitute for SB 304 is a proactive response to the current and growing need for housing that includes basic accessibility features. It will also begin to create a future where we can visit friends and family.**
- **The Substitute for SB 304 considers human needs and abilities throughout the lifespan. The inclusionary design maximizes the number of people who can function independently in the resulting homes.**
- **It is certain that as the baby boomer generation moves into their senior years there will be a huge increase in the need for accessible housing.** In the next 30 years the U.S. population over 65 will increase from the current 12 percent to more than 20 percent. (HUD office of Policy Development and Research, 1996)
- **The population of Kansas already has a larger percentage of seniors than most states.** 107,000 or 11 percent of the State's population are households headed by persons over the age of 75. (p. 137 KS Consolidated Plan)

Information from HUD

- According to a new HUD report entitled, Housing Our Elders: A Report Card on the Housing Conditions and Needs of Older Americans:
 - **“There is a shortage of accessible housing in both the owner-occupied and, in particular, in rental stock . . . data indicates grab bars and handrails are the only universal design elements that have penetrated the housing market to any significant extent.” (p.48)**
 - **Approximately 1.1 million elderly households report unmet needs for home [accessibility] modifications. However, this number is only a small share of seniors [people 65 & over] who have physical limitations. . . The demand for [accessibility] modifications is likely to increase in future years as older, frailer persons become a larger share of the elderly population.” (pp. 47, 48)**

A primary objective of HUD's Housing and Security Plan for Older Americans [should also be a Kansas objective] is to “help seniors remain in their own homes, connected to their families and communities.” The Substitute for Senate Bill 304 will help make this possible.

Kansas Disability Rights Action Coalition for Housing

2401 E. 13th Street
Hays, KS 67601

(785) 625-6942 (V/TTY)
(785) 625-2334 (fax)

Substitute Senate Bill 304 Basic Accessibility in Housing Questions & Answers

Q: What is "basic accessibility"?

A: Sometimes referred to as "visit-ability," basic access provides the most essential features that persons with mobility impairments need to enter homes and have some degree of access to the rooms and bathrooms. The act would require five such features in covered dwellings:

- 1) One accessible entrance
- 2) All interior doorways wide enough for wheelchair passage
- 3) An accessible route through the main floor
- 4) Reinforcement of specified bathroom walls to allow for future installation of grab bars
- 5) Light switches, electrical outlets and other environmental controls in accessible locations.

Q: Who will benefit from the act?

A: Basic accessibility improves the lives of the entire community. It allows all of us to invite all people – all friends and family members – into our homes, while counteracting the social isolation and lack of housing choices experienced by people with disabilities. In addition, basic access provides everyone with greater maneuverability and safety in performing everyday chores and activities, such as pushing baby strollers and bicycles or moving furniture, groceries and other awkward or heavy items into and within dwellings.

Q: What types of dwellings would be covered under the act?

A: Single-family, duplex and triplex dwellings receiving financial assistance from the State, including federal funds administered through the State, for new construction or rehabilitation would be covered. Multi-family dwellings (4 or more units) would not be covered; all newly-constructed multi-family housing is covered under the federal Fair Housing Amendments Act and the Kansas Act Against Discrimination, both requiring a greater than basic degree of accessibility.

Q: Will the act apply to any individual owner/occupants of private homes?

A: No. The act will only apply to dwellings constructed or rehabilitated by developers or organizations (e.g., CHDOs).

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- Q: Would the act apply to housing projects assisted solely by local (city or county) resources?
A: No. Projects receiving local assistance would only be covered if they were also receiving state or federal assistance.
- Q: Would private properties that accept tenant-based Section 8 rental vouchers/certificates and no other form of federal assistance be required to comply with the act?
A: No.
- Q: How does the act apply to housing rehabilitation?
A: If particular features undergoing rehabilitation would be affected by any of the five design requirements, then those features only must be altered in accordance with the requirements that would apply; anywhere from one to all five of the requirements might be triggered. The intent of the act is to ensure that features being reconstructed incorporate basic accessibility when applicable so that old barriers are not rebuilt. Non-structural rehabilitation (e.g., painting, weatherization, etc.) would not trigger any of the requirements.
- Q: Would any exemptions be permitted?
A: The Department of Administration may waive any requirement of the act in instances of environmental or financial impracticability. Rules and regulations defining the criteria for a waiver shall be adopted.
- Q: Has the State documented the need for basic accessibility in housing?
A: Publications by the Department of Commerce and Housing, such as the *Kansas Consolidated Plan 1999-2002* and the *Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice 1997*, confirm that Kansas has a severe shortage of housing that is accessible to persons with disabilities. The latter document identified this problem as the #1 impediment to fair housing choice in the state.
- Q: Have other states passed similar legislation?
A: Statutes requiring basic accessibility features have been passed in Texas, Florida, and the cities of Atlanta, GA and Austin, TX; a federal basic access law has been passed in the United Kingdom. Furthermore, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development supports the incorporation of visitable design in its housing programs and has issued a strong directive encouraging basic access in its HOPE VI projects.
- Q: Would the act necessitate any new allocation of funds?
A: No.

For more information contact Becca Vaughn in Topeka at 233-4572

**Important Memo
Concerning
Substitute
SB 304**

Sub. SB 304 will use our public funds in a cost effective manner, while increasing the stock of basic accessible and affordable housing units throughout Kansas.

Sub. SB 304 only applies to State housing dollars and federal dollars which the State administers. Communities which receive money directly from Federal sources, that do not pass through the State are not effected by this bill.

Public funds derived from City or County funds, used in the development of affordable housing are as well, not effected by this bill.

Sub. SB 304 does cover rehabilitation of affordable dwellings, only if there has not been a waiver issued and only if the rehabilitation planned would effect one of the five requirements. The waiver will allow for individual projects to be exempt from this bill for financial or environmental impracticability reasons.

The waiver will be granted through the Department of Administration, who will also issue rules and regulations on the provision.

Basic Accessible or "visitable" housing makes good economic sense, does not call for new allocation of State dollars, and creates livable and visit friendly communities for our elders, family, friends and loved ones!

5 nro
304

TESTIMONY
House Federal and State Affairs Committee
on Substitute Senate Bill 304

on behalf of the Department of Commerce & Housing

March 9, 2000

General Perspective: The Department of Commerce & Housing is on record as supporting accessible, affordable housing. This bill would establish basic accessibility standards for single-family, duplex, and triplex residences which are at least partially funded by state or federal funds.

KDOC&H's Current Accessibility Activities: The department increased its emphasis on accessible housing several years ago by requiring all first-floor units in Housing Tax Credit apartment projects to be accessible. All new construction of smaller units must be approachable and adaptable, subject to financial feasibility. ("Approachable and adaptable" includes all the features in this bill except placement of electrical controls in accessible locations.) The HOME program allows up to an additional \$5,000 for First Time Homebuyers to make their homes accessible. HOME and CDBG programs fund accessibility modifications in their Homeowner Rehabilitation Programs, and HOME funds accessibility features in both new construction and rehabilitation of Community Housing Development Organization projects. The Emergency Shelter Grant also funds accessibility modifications for homeless shelters. In addition, the department recently announced a pilot program for accessibility modifications across the state, funded by non-HUD monies, which will begin in July.

Impact of Bill: It is difficult to define the fiscal impact on the department. It has been estimated that basic accessibility features would add no more than 15 percent to the cost of new construction, and the department already requires most of these features on new construction. HUD-financed new home construction has some cost limitations, and the additional features would have to be included in the total allowable cost.

Rehabilitation of units is more difficult to predict because each house's structure would influence what had to be completed and, in any case, all features of this bill would not be required on all rehabilitation. In 1999 the department funded a total of 32 newly constructed units and 30 rehabilitated units that would have been affected by this bill. Most of the 62 units fell under department priorities for accessible housing. Based on the 1999 statistics, we could estimate that about 14 of the 62 units would have required additional measures if this bill had been in effect.

This bill has been through several renditions, and we believe the ultimate decision to exclude owner-occupied dwellings is an important feature in its successful implementation.

I would be pleased to answer any questions.

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6 miles
304

Data collected in 1991-92 by the Economic & Statistics Administration of the United States Department of Commerce showed nearly 49 million people with a disability, 24.1 million of these were severe. Three years later approximately 54 million or 1 in 5 reported some level of disability and 26 million, or 1 in 10 disabilities were severe. This is a 10.25% increase in the number of people with disabilities in a three-year period. If this rate of increase holds true there will be 66 million people with disabilities in the United States by 2001.

The 1999 population of Kansas was 2,654,052. With a 1 in 5 disability rate Kansas has 530,810 people with a disability, Wichita alone has 65,850 people with disabilities. The Independent Living Resource Center in Wichita serves 645 people on the Physical Disability waiver alone. Independent Living Centers across the state serve approximately 3000 persons with physical disabilities through Home and Community Based Services. There are many more with physical and mental disabilities not receiving these services and the frail and elderly, that would benefit from basic accessibility in housing.

My parents have disabilities, and I have seen the problems they face trying to visit friends and family, or even move about in their own home. I have seen the hurt in my aunt's eyes when she could not get into her daughter's house to see her grandson because it was not wheel chair accessible. My oldest daughter, with severe injuries from an automobile accident, unable to visit her sister or friends because their homes were not accessible. I could tell many similar stories from the people I work with every day, of how hard it is just to leave their home to go to the doctor or to the grocery store, and to remain independent

I receive an average of three or four calls a week from people looking for accessible housing. I have received calls from people living on the streets, not because they can't afford rent, but because they can not find a house or apartment that has even basic accessibility. The few times we have found an accessible house or apartment the rents were so high a person on disability or Social Security could not afford it.

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All members of the household benefit from safer homes that impose fewer constraints on daily activities. Families are able to live together in their own home instead of facing the emotional and economic costs of moving or institutionalizing a family member. Households can "age in place" over the life cycle without incurring significant remodeling expenses. People with mobility impairments will be able to visit their friends and family because the barriers that keep them out now will no longer exist. People without disabilities will benefit also, bringing in baby strollers and groceries, or moving furniture and other awkward or heavy items into and within the home will be easier.

There is not sufficient accessible housing, and certainly not affordable, accessible housing, to supply the needs of the people of Kansas at this time, and, with the increase in disabilities, the baby boomers approaching retirement and people living longer, this need is increasing. Please, do not say no to basic accessibility for the thousands of Kansas residents who are now in need, and those in the future who will be in need of this basic right, to live and function safely and comfortably in their own home. To be able to go outdoors with ease, to not feel trapped by not being able to leave their own porch or to visit friends and family.

Steve Hinds
Consumer Advocate
Independent Living Resource Center
Wichita Ks

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Stardusters Crime Prevention, Inc.

917 1/2 SE 12th St., Topeka, KS 66607

(913) 233-5834 - Fax: (913) 354-1115

9 March 2000

Chairman Tony Powell
House Federal & State Affairs Committee
State Capitol
Topeka, KS

SUPPORT OF SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 304 - STATE VISITABILITY BILL

Members of the House of Representatives, my name is Shirley Wishom I am a representative for Stardusters Crime Prevention, Inc. Stardusters is a Community Housing Development Organization, that develops, constructs and manages affordable housing in Topeka. Stardusters has been a recipient of federal affordable housing dollars and are the first CHDO in Topeka and possibly in the State to incorporate the Visitability concept into our housing units. We are providing testimony in support of the above bill. (CHDO certification attached)

Stardusters has built several new housing units which incorporate "visitability" meaning wheel chair accessibility throughout the homes. After hearing testimony from representatives of Topeka Independent Living Stardusters Board of Directors decided if public funds are being used to subsidize housing development cost, then all of the homes produced should accommodate everyone including the mobility impaired.

Stardusters board never saw this as an additional cost, but as a part of the cost to construct or rehab any home when using public funds. Because no such law exist, these cost are often considered additional and whereby funding decisions of governments allocating the resources vote against these accommodations. The only real cost we have found is in constructing the ADA entrance ramp, which we were able to do by securing and extra \$3,735. However, to prove entrance ramps can be attractive, extremely useful and are appropriate we proudly showcase the home we have built that does include an entrance ramp. (see attached Stardusters Homes of the Future)

Visitability housing benefits us all, and if public funds are to be used no person regardless of race creed or physical handicap should be excluded from access. Without this law, housing providers will continue to argue cost and deny those with physical limitations, Fair Housing Choices, which is there constitutional right.

There should be absolutely nothing to prevent this bill from passage, for when you tax you tax everyone, and when those tax dollars come back to our communities to provide needed affordable housing, all eligible citizens should be able to benefit.

Shirley Wishom
Finance Administrator

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KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & HOUSING

DIVISION OF HOUSING

THIS CERTIFICATE IS PRESENTED TO:

STARDUSTERS, INC.

in recognition of having successfully met qualifying Federal guidelines to become recognized as a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO), and is therefore eligible to compete for all CHDO set-aside activities under the HOME Investment Partnerships Program.

In testimony thereof this **20th** day of **February, 1995**, A.D.

Randy L. Speaker
Undersecretary for Housing

Barbara Cowdin
Director, HOME Program

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STARDUSTER HOMES OF THE FUTURE

Affordable Quality Housing



Stardusters Community Housing Development Organization

PRICE: RENT / RENT TO OWN

- ◆ Age of homes: New Const.
- ◆ Square feet: 1,050
- ◆ Yard size: approx. 75ft by 130ft lots vary.
- ◆ Bedrooms: Three
- ◆ Baths: Two + Rough In, in basement
- ◆ Levels: Ranch + full basement

Apply at Stardusters offices:
917 1/2 SE 12th
Topeka, KS 66607

Extras: Energy Efficient Rating 83+; ADA Certified Entrance Ramps; 3 ft. wide doors & hallways for wheelchair mobility; Egress Windows for basement utilization; garage door opener; central air; Security Lights & doors; customized & Personalized Yard Mail boxes; all new appliances, i.e. gas range, refrigerator with icemaker, garbage disposal & dishwasher.



Equal Housing Opportunity

(785)-233-5834

Jimmy L. Bullocks, Sr.
President & CEO

Funded in Part by Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing, (HUD); City of Topeka, & Stardusters, Inc.

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(8)

Living Independently in Northwest Kansas

2401 E. 13th Street
(785) 625-6942(V/TT)

Hays, KS 67601
(785) 625-6137 (FAX)

Brian Atwell
March 9th, 2000 Testimony to the
House Committee on Federal & State Affairs

Thank you Chairman Powell and committee members for allowing me to testify in support of Substitute for Senate Bill 304. I am Executive Director for Living Independently in Northwest Kansas (LINK), a Center for Independent Living serving and advocating for people with disabilities in the 21 counties of Northwest Kansas. LINK has a total of five (5) offices throughout northwest Kansas and served 569 consumers in 1999.

I am excited about the potential of Substitute SB 304 to increase accessibility options in dwellings which are constructed, remodeled, or rehabilitated with public financial assistance. Growing up in rural western Kansas and having a life experience with a disability has put me in many situations where access into dwellings has been a large barrier. Even the smallest improvements in access afforded by this bill will be a great improvement over no access at all. People with disabilities will not be isolated if basic access features such as no step accessible entrance, accessible route and interior doorways, reinforced bathroom walls and accessible placement of switches, outlets and controls are included in these effected dwellings. By making houses visitable, people with disabilities will be able to visit friends and families whom may have these five accessibility features in their homes.

Thank you for your time, I will stand for any questions you may have.

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LINK, Inc. also has offices in Hill City, Colby, Osborne and Great Bend

1137 Laing St.
P.O. Box 257
Osage City, KS 66523
(785) 528-3105 Voice
(785) 528-3106 TDD
1-800-580-7245
FAX (785) 528-3665



RESOURCE
CENTER
INDEPENDENT
LIVING INC

Testimony to
House of Representatives
Federal and State Affairs Committee
Representative Tony Powell, Chairperson
On Substitute Senate Bill 304

By
Michelle Campbell
March 9th 2000

Thank you Chairperson Powell and Committee members for allowing me to testify today as a supporter of Substitute Senate Bill 304. My name is Michelle Campbell.

Even though I am a person who has a disability, I would like to be able to socialize with my co-workers and friends like non-disabled people do. More often than not I have to decline an invitation to go to someone's apartment or home because they live somewhere that it is not accessible to me. If I could get in, most likely I am not able to use their restroom. I then would have a decision to make, do I drink or eat nothing causing me not to enjoy everything that everyone else at the event is enjoying. When this happens, I feel very out of place and like I am not fitting in at the party. The second choice I have is to eat, drink and be merry. If I decide to choose the second choice, then choices three and four soon need to be made. Three, do I leave the party early not fully socialized, or choice number four, do I stay and take the chance and have the most unthinkable thing to an adult happen, to have an accident. This I am sad to say does happen, adults with disabilities want and need to socialize and so at times they will unwillingly take that chance and sacrifice their dignity. People who have disabilities are no different than non-disabled people; they don't want to sacrifice their dignity either. If Substitute Senate Bill 304 is passed then everyone disabled or non-disabled can be apart of his or her community.

Again, thank you very much for your time. I may be contacted at the Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc. (785) 528-3105.

Sincerely,
Michelle Campbell
Michelle Campbell
CAC Coordinator/ILS

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House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Substitute for Senate Bill 304- Testimony
March 9, 2000

My daughter and I made a most exciting decision two years ago, we decided that a power wheelchair might be a good answer for my eight-year-old who experiences cerebral palsy. The power chair would enable Jessica to determine for herself where and when to go, allowing her to strive for the greatest level of independence possible. The new wheelchair came and Jessica began her driving lessons. This chair has presented us with some interesting challenges. We are finding that most individual residences are not accessible. The lack of accessibility has considerably limited the places we can visit.

Jessica and I support Substitute for SB 304 which requires basic accessibility features and visitability in all new and rehabilitated housing that receive any funding assistance from the State of Kansas, including federal funds that go through the state. This bill will improve the quality of life for our family and many others in countless ways. Jessica's grandmother lives in subsidized housing. At this point, when Jessica visits her grandmother's house she can not exercise the new found independence the power chair provides her due to steps into the home. Although this bill may not immediately impact this housing development, it will open up opportunities in those complexes that are newly constructed or renovated.

Being an eight-year-old, second grader, Jessica wants to play with family and friends. If she goes to a friend's house, she is often unable to get in the front door! We don't even go to her aunt and uncle's home because she must give up the independence she has acquired through the use of her power chair. We must use a manual wheelchair. With a manual chair she can not go to her cousins' rooms at will. It is so frustrating to observe the limitations your child experiences as a result of architectural barriers which do not allow her to engage in activities with other children her age.

Jessica is in her second year of Brownie Girl Scouts. When the cookie order forms came, she was ecstatic about selling cookies. Her goal was to sell to everyone in the neighborhood. She was quite disappointed that she had to skip many houses because of steps at the front door. How aggravating to want to do your best only to be forced to take a back seat because of barriers to access.

In conclusion, I urge this committee to recommend passage of Substitute for SB 304 so there will come a time when Jessica, and future generations, can not only have friends over to visit but also play at their houses. Passage of this bill will bring us a step closer to a fully integrated and accessible community, not just for people with disabilities, but for all people.

Thank you for your time.

Jennifer Schwartz
2529 Maverick Lane
Lawrence, KS 66046
(785) 832-8353

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Michael Reel 11

Southeast Kansas Independent Living Resource Center, Inc.

S.K.I.L. Resource Center, Inc.

P.O. Box 1035 1801 Parsons Plaza Parsons, KS 67357-1035

Phone: (316) 421-5502 Fax: (316) 421-3705 TDD: (316) 421-0983 Toll Free: 1-800-688-5616

Columbus Office
125 E. Maple
Columbus, KS 66725
(316) 429-3600

House of Representative Federal and State Affairs Committee
Representative Powell

March, 9 2000

Coffeyville Office
806 E. 8th
P.O. Box 497
Coffeyville, KS 67337
(316) 251-5400

Mr. Chairman and Committee Member. Thank you for this opportunity to visit with you.

Substitute Senate Bill 304 is good legislation. Good for you. Good for me. Good for the disabled Community. Good for the elderly. Substitute Bill 304 is good for all people of Kansas.

Pittsburg Office
104 W. 6th
P.O. Box 217
Pittsburg, KS 66762
(316) 231-6780

This piece of legislation basically states that all newly constructed or rehabilitation housing units that receive any type of State funds, Tax credits, and loan guarantees ect, will be made minimally accessible.

In a nutshell this legislation ensures that if you become disabled your range of housing options increases. Or that if you reside in a dwelling that this legislation creates your disabled friends or elderly grandmother, now using a wheelchair or walker have the opportunity to come visit or have dinner.

Chanute Office
1028 S. Santa Fe
Chanute, KS 66720
(316) 431-0757

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members, Kansas is leading the nation in disability rights. Statewide, advocates are assisting cities and business remove the barriers that in the past have prevented the disabled from participating fully in Kansas's society. This piece of legislation will be one more step towards complete fulfillment of the disabled community's dream of complete inclusion. Today, Kansans with disabilities are moving from institutions to the community of their choice. Often times however housing options are limited, sometimes segregated, due to the availability of even minimally accessible housing.

Fredonia Office
419 N. 6th
Fredonia, KS 66736
(316) 378-4881



Assistive Technology
for Kansans
1-800-526-3648



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This legislation, Visit-ability, is progress. People with disability are moving into the work force. They are becoming tax givers and not tax taker. They must have a place to live; they must have housing options that prevent them from being isolated in those "specials" housing options.

Working for a non-profit agency, we, as advocates see the need for this landmark bill to be passed. The passing of this bill will send a message out to the thousands of disabled Kansans that no matter where they live in this Great State that there will be housing for all.

Please support Senate Bill 304. Thank you

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Comments and Concerns
Senate Bill 304
Kansas House of Representatives
Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Thursday, March 9, 2000

Presented by Larry R. Eller
Director of Community Development
City of Parsons, Kansas

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City of Parsons

Comments on Substitute for Senate Bill 304

Background

City of Parsons Affordable Single Family Home Program

Over the last 20 years, the City of Parsons has been instrumental in the construction of 81 new single family homes which have provided decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable housing for 190 of our **low to moderate income citizens**. To make the homes affordable, the City has obtained subsidies from HUD, Rural Development, the Kansas HOME First Time Home Buyers Program, and the Kansas Community Service Program. Currently, we are working on a program to place 1,344 sq. foot, 3 bedroom homes on city owned lots located in a low income redevelopment neighborhood. The homes currently sell for a very affordable \$53,207. Local industries contributed \$144,000 to the Parsons Community Foundation which provides forgivable \$12,000 Third Mortgages on the homes. (State of Kansas) HOME First Time homebuyer funds provide from 15% to 30% of the cost of the home in down payment and closing cost assistance. **With these programs we are able to keep monthly housing payments ranging from \$300 to \$400 per month in principal, interest, insurance and property tax escrows. In many instances, we are making new homes affordable for households with very low incomes (50%) of median.** Almost all of our homebuyers are young married couples or newly divorced female headed households under the age of 25. To keep the price of the homes affordable, we are using manufactured homes sold by Kansas Mobile Homes of Parsons. The houses arrive in two pieces and are placed on permanent foundations. To make the house "blend" with neighborhood homes, a front porch, carport, and concrete driveways are added on site. **Manufactured housing is approximately 40% less expensive on a square footage basis than more traditional "stick built" homes.**



Photo 1-Sign Advertising Our Affordable Single Family Housing Program

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Photo 2-New Manufactured Home under Construction
25th and Briggs-Parsons, Kansas

How Does the Bill Adversely Impact the Parsons Affordable Housing Program?
Costs

- **The ramp required by S. B. 304 would cost an additional \$5,000 per home.** Manufactured homes are built on metal I beams. This method of construction forces us to place the homes on foundations that are 4 concrete blocks high in order to have crawl space under the homes. To comply with S. B. 304, a massive 35' ramp would have to be placed on our homes on houses that are not pre-sold at the time of construction. (See next page) Of the 9 homes we have constructed under our housing program to date, none of the homes were pre-sold. We have found it is very difficult to sell the homes without having them completed and on site for inspection by the prospective homebuyer. If we have to have homes pre-sold in order to exempt ourselves from the requirements of S. B. 304, the progress of future programs will be greatly hampered.
- **Other provisions of S.B. 304 will increase our cost by an additional \$1,000 per home.** Wider doors will cost \$100.00 each. Strengthening bathroom walls will cost \$400.00. **The problem is that our houses are built in a factory on an assembly line basis.** Modifications required by S.B. 304 will be very difficult to obtain in an

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Assembly line process. Some of the improvements will have to be done on site, tearing out work already completed by the factory.

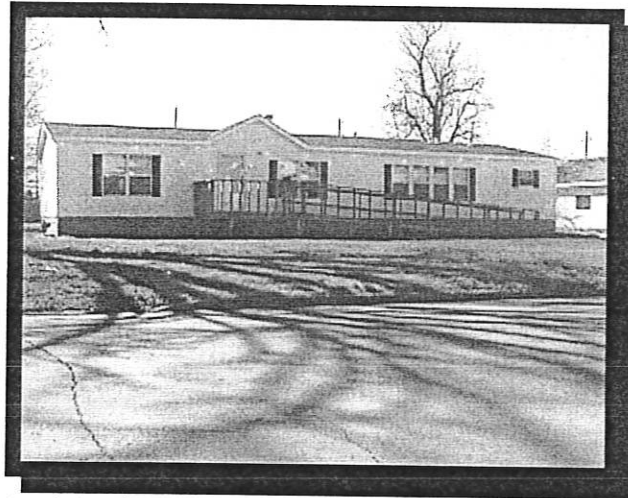


Photo 3- Showing Massive Ramp on Existing Manufactured Home in Parsons

- **The \$6,000 per house price increase dictated by the passage of S. B. 304 will only serve to “price out” many very low income families in Parsons and Kansas from purchasing their own home. The \$6,000 price increase in our homes will mean at least an additional \$50.00 per month in individual mortgages payments.** Many very low-income families will not be able to qualify for bank loans if their payments are increased to this level.
- **All of our new home purchasers to date have been young and under 25 years of age. They do not want or need the mandated requirements of S. B. 304. Most of the new homebuyers would probably remove the wheel chair ramp after they purchase the homes. If a disabled person desires to purchase one of our homes, the city using its own funds we will make the home accessible to this homebuyer.**
- **A discussion with local realtors reveals that the required improvements could adversely impact the value and sales of our program homes.**

Other Considerations

- **The proposed bill discriminates against smaller Kansas Communities who must receive their federal funds from the Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing.** Kansas entitlement communities-Wichita, Kansas City, Overland Park, Johnson County Cities, Lawrence, and Topeka are exempt from this bill using federal

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federal funds directly from the federal government. Using these same federal funds, Kansas cities under 50,000 would not be exempt.

- **The Proposed Senate Bill Will Have Little Impact in Making New Housing Units Accessible to Disabled Persons.**

HUD and USDA-Rural Development finance the overwhelming majority of new housing units, with the exception of the Federal Tax Credit Program administered by the Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing. For the act to be effective there can be no exemption of federally financed housing programs.

- **The Cost of Modest Affordable Homes in Kansas is Getting Out of Control. Too many Kansas families are being "priced out" of new homes.** A modest 1,257 square foot 3-bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage home recently constructed in Parsons under the Kansas Housing Cost Demonstration Program cost \$89,000 to construct. A comparable home built in Pittsburg, Kansas cost \$119,000. **Low to moderate-income families are being "priced out" of new homes and can not afford monthly payments on these homes without large federal subsidies.** S. B. 304 only compounds the housing affordability problem in Kansas at the worst possible time. In recent year, there have been dramatic increases in building material costs. For example, the price of sheet rock has almost doubled.



Photo 4-Showing Completed Program Home

Recommendation

Due to unique circumstances related to manufactured homes, they should be exempt from the requirements of S. B. 304. The bill adversely impacts upon housing costs for families who do not want or need the mandated accessibility improvements.



KANSAS

Bill Graves
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns

Richard E. Beyer
Secretary

Testimony on Substitute for SB 304
House Federal and State Affairs
Given by
Sharon Huffman, Legislative Liaison
March 9, 2000

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the Substitute for SB 304. The Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns (KCDC) is an advisory commission that provides information and education to the legislature and governor on issues of importance to Kansans with disabilities. The mission statement of KCDC is: The Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns believes that all people with disabilities are entitled to be equal citizens and equal partners in Kansas society. The purpose of the Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns is to involve all segments of the Kansas community through legislative advocacy, education and resource networking to ensure full and equal citizenship for all Kansans with disabilities.

SB 304 creates a new law which would require that all new and rehabilitated single-family dwellings and individual living units in duplexes and triplexes that receive financial assistance from or through the state government be made generally accessible to people with disabilities. Accessible housing is hard to find anywhere in Kansas and particularly in rural areas. Finding the money to make modifications to existing houses is also difficult. SB 304 would increase the number of houses and housing units which are adaptable and have many accessible features already in place.

KCDC encourages your support for the Substitutes for SB 304.

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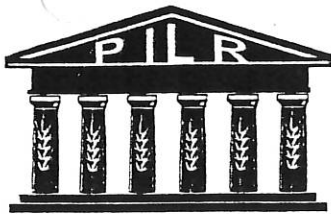
14

House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Testimony in Favor of the Substitute for SB 304
March 8, 2000
Jody Anderson
788 Highway 40
Lawrence, Kansas 66049

I am writing to express my full support for the Substitute for Senate Bill 304. The basic accessibility outlined in this bill would be a great beginning to making our environment friendly to all people.

I have a son who was born with Spina Bifida. He uses a wheelchair. He is now 19 years old. I can't find a way to express how frustrating it is for him – and for me, as his mother – to not be able to just stop by someone's home. There are very few homes he can enter without someone carrying him up steps. Imagine sharing a cup of coffee in a friend's kitchen and then not being able to get into the bathroom because the door is too narrow. We are all only one accident, one illness, or one more step in aging away from using a wheelchair. We need to make environments that will continue to accept us and allow us access to the comfort of friends.

This bill is a beginning. It will create some accessible environments and it will stand as a model for private building. The creation of accessible environments will help people accept such standards and recognize their advantages. I hope for the day when every new home has one accessible entrance and one accessible bathroom. Please help us move one step closer to that future.



Prairie Independent Living Resource Center

March 8, 2000

Chairman Tony Powell
House of Representatives
Federal and State Affairs Committee

Dear Chairman Powell:

I work for Prairie Independent Living Resource Center. Our service area is Reno, Harvey and McPherson counties. We do work with consumers in other counties that do not have an independent living center near them.

Many of our consumers need affordable accessible housing. Substitute Senate Bill 304 will help alleviate some of these problems. I've worked with Kansas Disability Rights Action Coalition for Housing through my Center. I've discussed this bill with many of my consumers and almost all agree that it would be very helpful.

I've enclosed two lists of people who are in favor of the substitute Senate Bill 304. One is a list of people who attended the Reno County Advocacy meeting and the other are interested individuals.

One important item I would like to hi-lite about the bill is it's budgetary impact. Passage of it doesn't require any new funds be allocated.

Thank you for your time and consideration of substitute Senate Bill 304.

Sincerely,

Leroy O. Bell
Independent Living Specialist

RENO COUNTY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: 2-24-2000

Person Attending Meeting	Mailing Address	Phone Number
Jay Blankenship	33rd ^{APT 107} Hutch	
Mae Jones	2700 N. Washington	
Tim Verthaler	108 Teas Ct.	663 2018
Cathy Blake	908 E 13th Hutch, KS	665-0386 TDD
Victor Trass	1401 E. 23rd Apt. 272 Hutch, KS ⁶⁷⁵⁰²	665-0718 TDD
Marla Ahrens	3304 Jeffrey Apt B Hutch, KS ⁶⁷⁵⁰²	728-0129 TDD
Frances Goddard	620 East C	662-4255 TDD
Glenda Suckter	827 E 3rd	663-5897 TDD
Carl Rick	1204 Northward	669-9365
Larry & Debra Burnett	441 N. Washington #308 So. Hutch, KS ⁶⁷⁵⁰⁵	665-9774
Margaret Dovel	3405 N. Swerance	665-5814
Nathalie Schtatter		
Melvin Sull	16 WASTS ST APT #4	669-8513
Paul Meelin	19 N 7th Apt A	664-9529

SUPPORT LIST

Date 2-15-2000

1. Christi Ireland

2. Rain A. Vuthala

3. Nachalie Schletter

4. Christina Louens

5. Glenda Luckteig

6. Janey M. Guid (Michela)

7. Cay M. Mac

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

Representative Powell;

Hello, my name is Jeff Farney from Beloit, Kansas. I would like to take a moment to share with you why I encourage you and the Federal and State Affairs Committee to fully support Substitute Senate Bill 304, on visitability or basic accessibility. I cannot be at the hearing, but ask you to accept my written testimony.

I am 29 years old. One month shy of my 25th birthday I contracted a rare virus that attacked my spinal cord. There was no known cause, likewise, no known cure. The attack left damage to my spinal cord resulting in paralysis known as quadripelgia. Today I use a power wheelchair and work full time. Part of my job involves working with others who have disabilities. Obviously, access is very important to me. Passing this bill would enhance my opportunity to serve people and allow me to maintain an independent lifestyle to the best of my ability. No one asks for a disability, just equal opportunities.

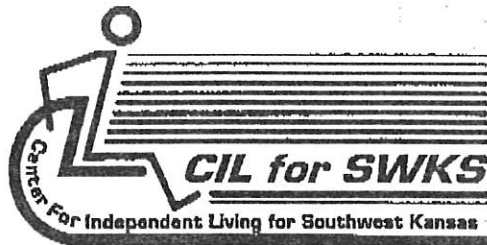
Should this bill become law, it would benefit a great many people, for a great many reasons. For example, allowing for extra clearance at doorways, entrances and hallways would allow a mother extra room while pushing a stroller, an elderly person room to maneuver a walker and someone using a wheelchair space to make a turn. The provisions for basic accessibility in this bill would prove to be very minor in both cost and convenience but prove a major benefit for all!

Thank you for your time,



Jeff Farney
713 N. Chestnut
Beloit, KS 67420
785-738-4081

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111 Grant Ave.
Garden City, KS 67846
(316) 276-1900 V/TT
(316) 271-0200 Fax

**Testimony to Federal and State Affairs, Representative Powell, Chairperson
on Substitute Bill SB 304**

by Troy A. Horton Center for Independent Living for Southwest Kansas

March 9, 2000

Thank you Chairperson Powell and Committee members for allowing me to submit testimony today. Please support SB 304. I am the Executive Director of the Center for Independent Living for Southwest Kansas. The Center serves 25 countries in Southwest Kansas. As the director of a Independent Living Center I have contact with a lot of people with disabilities. Most of these people would like to own a house. Accessible houses are not available for people to buy. So they are faced with the cost of remodeling a house which individuals can not afford. They are forced to look for assistance through state funded programs. Some people meet the qualifications of such programs to assist part-way making their home accessible but the funding is a one time amount locking them in to live there because there is no funding if they want to move again in the future. So the state is funding the remodeling of houses for people with mobility impairments through various programs and organizations.

I am a person with a mobility impairment and have used a wheelchair for 15 years. I live in a apartment which I made accessible for myself and would like to move into a house. I have been ready to buy a home for awhile now but there are none that I have seen without steps to get into the house. Houses that meet the requirements as in SB 304 do not exist near me. My other option is to make the necessary changes myself, As I have to plan for remodeling costs before I even buy a home. The added cost to make it accessible on top of the cost of the house comes to more money then I can afford, this forces me to remain where I live now. We know it is more cost effective to build a new accessible home over the cost of remodeling one.

I also visit friends, family and church functions in peoples home. This makes it difficult as they seem to all have steps. I am young, still in my twenties and like to be very active. Many times I let people pull me up and down the steps just so I can participate with my friends. I find myself laying on the sidewalk as my wheelchair rolls toward the street. Another crash landing I survived, but I was going up not down. Lets try it again!, they say. There are many other stories I could tell you about how I have got into peoples houses and also used their bathrooms. The bathrooms are almost never useable, I have had to take the door off and part of the frame just to be able enter the bathroom.

SB 304 tries to unite community life by letting everyone be able to visit their neighbor and requires the wisest use of public funds being used for housing. I believe SB 304 will save the state money in the long-term, allow more choices where people with disabilities can live, and create affordable accessible houses. **Please pass Substitute Bill SB 304.**

Thank you very much for your time. If you have any questions, I would be glad to answer them.

Satellite Offices

1023 North Kansas Suite 2
Liberal, KS 67901
(316) 624-5500 V/TT
(316) 624-6576 Fax

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2601 Central
Dodge City, KS 67801
(316) 227-6660 V/TT
(316) 227-8185 Fax



Western Kansas Association on Concerns of the Disabled

2401 East 13th • Hays, Kansas 67601 • (785) 625-6942

Access + Opportunity = Independence

Celebrating More Than 20 YEARS of Civil Rights Advocacy

Testimony to
House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Representative Tony Powell, Chairperson
On Substitute for SB304

By
Gary Howard
Western Kansas Association on Concerns of the Disabled
March 9, 2000

Thank you Chairperson Powell and Committee members for allowing me to testify today as a supporter of Substitute for SB 304. My name is Gary Howard. I have been the president of WKACD for one year and have been Vice President for several years prior to that.

There are several reasons that I am asking for your support on this bill. The first is the need for accessible housing. This is one of the more difficult barriers to adapting to life with a mobility impairment as more and more people are doing. Second, this would help counteract the isolation felt by people with disabilities because they are unable to visit friends and families. You can easily understand how important this is for anyone to be able to turn to their loved ones in times of crisis.

This bill would not affect any owner-occupied private homes, just housing developers. If my tax dollars are going to be used to build or rehabilitate public housing, I would like to know that there will be accessibility requirements for that new construction or remodeling being done. This is an ideal time to start the change and SB304 is a way to accomplish it.

Thank you for your time and if you have any questions I can be contacted at (785) 625-6942.



United Way Agency

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**Testimony Presented to
House Federal & State Affairs Committee on
Substitute Senate Bill 304
By Shannon Jones
March 9, 2000**

My name is Shannon Jones. I am the director of the Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas (SILCK). The SILCK is mandated by the federal Rehabilitation Act as amended in 1998 to study existing services for people with disabilities and make recommendations to improve or expand services that will enable Kansans with disabilities to achieve their optimum level of independence and improve their quality of life.

The SILCK supports Substitute SB 304. Today Kansas has the fourth highest aging population in the country. As we age, we acquire disabilities. This means the need for accessibility will not go away. We need to address a long-range plan for how we will address our aging and disabled population. While more people are choosing to stay in their own homes, they do not want to be prisoners in their homes. According to a study done by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, "Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey", between 16 - 18% of adult Kansans identify themselves as having some form of a mobility impairment.

BASIC ACCESS IMPROVES THE LIVES OF EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

In addition, Kansas has been a national leader in implementing home and community based services across the state to ALL populations. The result has been that more and more people are choosing to stay in their homes and receive services. The passage of this bill would greatly enhance the community services system.

The SILCK urges this committee to favorably pass Substitute SB 304 to ensure access in all housing built or rehabilitated with public funds in the state of Kansas.

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Kansas State House of Representatives,
Federal and State Affairs Committee:

March 8, 2000

Greetings:

Due to a major breakdown in my transportation, I'll give written testimony this time instead of in person as I had planned. With regards to substitute for Senate Bill 304, Basic accessibility in Housing, it is my firm belief that this bill is long overdue.

As a disabled member of the public at large, I can assure you that there is nothing in this bill that has not been necessary for at least the last 10 yrs. that I've been aware of and most likely long before then.

For the last 5 yrs. I've resided in Franklin County Kansas. I've lived in housing units that were supposed to be for the disabled, yet you couldn't get a wheelchair in the public restrooms adjoining the commons area of the building. Or you had to go around to the alley (graveled not paved) to come up the ramp to a manual door, in order to enter the building. Try doing that in bad weather sometime if you don't think it is slightly humiliating.

This bill will help to bond the communities back together, as they were to those with disabilities as well as their friends and neighbors who haven't seen them because they couldn't get through the doors or up the steps. It is so easy to simply forget someone who has befallen with a disability. Most do not even realize that a physical impairment doesn't mean they don't have good ideas or judgement anymore. Only that they require a small adaptation to the dwellings so that they become accessible to all. Once that visit-ability is reached, all members of the community will once again be able to equal join in all ventures concerning their neighborhood.

The simple issues of a 32" door opening should cause no problems if any one wants to remember the last time they tried to move furniture through a narrow doorway. Well it's the same thing for one in a wheelchair, you can get the chair through without leaving the skin off your knuckles in the doorway. Or lowering heating and cooling controls so they can be reached by someone in a chair, or assist handles in the restrooms, sometimes we all could use a little extra help in that department.

Please take into consideration that other states have already passed similar legislation. We don't want to be the last to do so with so many elderly and disabled in Kansas, do we? I sincerely don't think so! This is my state of birth, and I've always been proud of my farming heritage. Now I ask you to pass this bill 304, and take the first step in helping to cure the rift that has begun to separate our communities, States, and Nation.

Thank You,
Gary L. Kent
235 S. Main Street Apt406
Ottawa, Ks. 66067

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ADAPT



Western Kansas ADAPT 21

507 W 21st - Hays, KS 67601
(785) 625-6942 Fax (785) 625-6137

FREE OUR PEOPLE

**Testimony to
House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Representative Tony Powell, Chairperson
On Substitute for SB304**

**By
Lou Ann Kibbee
Western Kansas ADAPT
March 9, 2000**

Thank you Chairperson Powell and Committee members for allowing me to testify today as a supporter of Substitute for SB 304. My name is Lou Ann Kibbee. I have been a person with a disability for 23 years and am the local organizer for the Western Kansas ADAPT chapter.

ADAPT is national grassroots disability rights organization advocating for a national community based attendant services program. Deinstitutionalization of people with disabilities is a movement happening nationwide. With an increased number of people with disabilities leaving institutions and integrating into society, access to communities, including housing, is a must. People with disabilities must have accessible housing to live in, but also have the ability to visit family, friends, and neighbors. The idea behind the concept of deinstitutionalization is to integrate people with disabilities into communities. In order to complete this concept, there are certain degrees of accessibility needed. Housing visitability would increase access for people with disabilities by requiring certain design requirements for new and rehabilitated single-family, duplex, and triplex dwelling units receiving public financial assistance.

The fact that public funds are being used to newly construct or rehabilitate housing with no accessibility requirements is very disheartening to myself as a taxpayer and as a person with a disability. The desperate shortage of accessible affordable housing in Kansas, and especially rural areas, that I see people experience everyday is an issue that must be addressed. SB304 is a great place to start the change, and there is no reason not to start now!

Thank you very much for your time. If you have questions, I may be contacted at 785-625-6942 or 2401 E. 13th St., Hays, KS 67601, lkibbee@eaglecom.net

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Testimony to
Committee on Federal and State Affairs
on SB304

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By
Blake Knoll
March 8, 2000

Thank you Committee members for allowing me this time to speak to you in support of SB304. I am Blake Knoll from Liberal, Ks. I have lived in Liberal for 38 years, and have been in the wheelchair for the past 20 years. I would like to share some of my experiences with you, and why the passing of SB304 is necessary.

When I was 23 years of age. I got married and had to try and find us a place to live. Being that there was no accessible housing in Liberal. I had to rent an apartment that was not accessible and modify it to make it usable. I had to spend around \$2000.00 to make this apartment accessible for me. At the age of 25. I needed to find a bigger place to live, because we now had a baby and needed more room. I still couldn't find an accessible house for us to live in. So I purchased a mobile home. The purchase price of the mobile home was \$19,000.00, and I still had to put another \$5,000.00 into this mobile home to make it accessible for me to live in. At the age of 31, we got divorced and had to sell the mobile home. So there I was again looking for an accessible house to live in. I got another home, where I am presently. I had to spend another \$5,000.00 to make this home accessible for me to live in. People have ask me why I spent the money to make all of these homes accessible. I told them that I had no choice but to make them accessible for me to live in them.

As far as being able to go out to visit family and friends in there homes, I can't because their homes are not accessible for me to get into, move about within their homes, or to be able to use their restrooms.

If SB304 is passed with the 5 required features. This would make more homes much more accessible for people with disabilities. Within other areas of the community.

One accessible (no-step) entrance to each dwelling unit.

All interior doorways wide enough for wheelchair passage, including doors to bathrooms.

Accessible route through the main floor of each unit.

Wall reinforcement for future grab bar installation.

All light switches, electrical outlets and other controls in accessible locations.

I believe SB304 will give more people a choice of where they would like to live within their own community, and that more people will be able to participate within their own communities.

Thank you for giving me your time in reading this letter. If you have any questions I may be contacted at 409 W. Pine, Liberal Ks. 67901.

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Sincerely,

Blake Knoll

Blake Knoll



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March 9, 2000

House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing in support of Substitute Senate Bill 304, known as the "Visitability" Bill. This would require basic accessibility features in single-family duplex and triplex housing built or rehabilitated with state funds and federal funds administered through the state.

This bill would address the documented need for more accessible housing in the Kansas Consolidated Plan. Basic accessibility features in housing construction would have a profound effect in reversing segregation of people with disabilities. With an accessible entrance to the house, wheelchair passable interior doorways, accessible switches and outlets and bathrooms, we can prevent building barriers that would likely need modification later on as people age in the community and in their homes. Substitute SB 304 maximizes the use of public funds to accommodate people with and without disabilities. In our community discussion of this bill, I was impressed by the support that came from people with disabilities, lenders, architects, agencies, the local CHODO, and other citizens.

I hope that you vote in favor of Substitute Senate Bill 304. I was happy to hear it passed 30-8 in the Senate and respectfully ask for your parallel support in the House. I look forward to the day when neighbors, friends, and family do not experience needless barriers to visiting, renting, or purchasing any home.

Sincerely,

Kelly Nightengale
Housing Specialist

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Written Testimony to Federal and State Affairs

**Derek Poppenhagen
201 Buffalo Jones Ave Apt 102
Garden City, Ks 67846
March 9, 2000**

Thank you Chairperson and Committee Members for allowing my written testimony. Please Support Senate Bill 304. I am a crutch and wheelchair user.

I have used crutches for 30 years and now have to resort to a wheelchair due to arthritis in my ankles now. I am looking to purchase my own home but there just isn't that many options for people who have to have some minor and major modifications to the existing homes in my price range. I would have to build a brand new home or have a big remodeling bill right from the beginning before ever moving in.

I understand the cost can be a factor in remodeling a home but with the passing of SB 304, there is some hope for people with disabilities and elderly alike. I have noticed how many things that people with disabilities have helped to implement already benefit all of us in some way now. Some examples are curb cuts, automatic door openers, and lever handles on doors instead of round knobs. Wheelchair users would enjoy visiting our friends and family without having to be carried up and down stairs, or worrying if we will be able to make it without needing to use the bathroom since we can fit through the doorway.

Passing Senate Bill 304 will make things easier for us all in the long run. Thinking of these things now will make a big difference in the price of doing the needed modifications for us all. Please take the time to look over SB 304 and think about how it benefits us all. Thank you again for allowing me a voice...**PLEASE PASS SB 304!** If there are any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at: 201 Buffalo Jones Ave Apt 102, Garden City, Kansas 67846, (316) 276-1869.

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Testimony to House of Representatives
Committee of Federal & State Affairs
Representative, Tony Powell, Chairperson,
On the Substitute for Senate Bill 304

By
Betty J. Richey
3-9-2000

Thank you Chairperson Powell and Committee for allowing me to testify as a supporter of the Substitute for Senate Bill 304. My name is Betty Richey.

This Bill is in response to the current and growing need for housing that includes basic accessibility for everyone – now and in the future.

As a disabled member of society- we have rights to be able to go to the restroom, be able to get around inside of our homes, visit friends, and have friends visit us. We (I) would like to have dignity and to live as close to normal as possible. It is very hard to find a place to live because there are not enough accessible “homes” being built.

Thank you very much for your time. I may be contacted at my home. The phone number is 1-316-320-1457.

Sincerely,

Betty J. Richey

Betty J. Richey

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Testimony to
House of Representatives Committee on Federal & State Affairs,
Representative Tony Powell, Chairperson,
On Substitute for Senate Bill 304

By

Amy Ritter
March 9, 2000

Thank you Chairperson Powell and Committee members for allowing me to testify today as a supporter of Substitute for Senate Bill 304. My name is Amy Ritter.

Accessible affordable housing is still a major concern for Butler County, especially in El Dorado, Ks..

Three years ago I had the opportunity to move to El Dorado. The only housing I found available that was accessible, was very expensive. There are some Low-Income accessible apartments in El Dorado but they always have a long waiting list. Due to being employed, I do not qualify for low-income housing any more.

If the Substitute Senate Bill 304 is passed, the lack of housing choices experienced by disabled individuals, it will improve the lives of the entire community.

Thank you very much for your time. I may be contacted at the Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc. (316)322-7853.

Sincerely,



Amy Ritter

Kansas Disability Rights Action Coalition for Housing

**2401 E. 13th Street
Hays, KS 67601**

**(785) 625-6942 (V/TTY)
(785) 625-6137 (fax)**

Testimony to House Committee on Federal and State Affairs,
Representative Tony Powell, Chairperson,
On Substitute for SB 304 by
Robin Tropper, Coordinator, Kansas DRACH
March 9, 2000

Thank you Chairperson Powell and Committee members for considering my testimony today as a proponent of Substitute for Senate Bill 304. As Coordinator of the Kansas Disability Rights Action Coalition for Housing (KDRACH), I deeply regret that, due to personal circumstances, I am unable to testify in person to support this important legislation today. KDRACH is a state-wide grassroots, cross-disability group of individuals and organizations working to ensure that the civil rights of people with disabilities are fully honored in all housing in Kansas, including State-funded and administered programs. Our work mirrors that of national DRACH, and is based on the independent living philosophy, promoting individual choice, individual control and full integration in our communities.

The overriding reason KDRACH authored this bill is the severe shortage of affordable accessible housing in our state – in our rural and urban areas alike. Too few dwellings in our communities provide basic structural access allowing *all* people to enter them, much less fully use them. Consequently, persons with mobility impairments and their families experience extreme difficulty in finding suitable places to live and they often become isolated in those homes because friends and relatives are likely to live in houses without basic access. Substitute for SB 304 would counteract such isolation and segregation, and would expand and equalize housing choices.

We feel that basic access improves the lives of the entire community at-large; the benefits reach beyond addressing the needs of people with mobility impairments. For instance, we are all enriched by socializing together in our own homes and in other people's homes with diverse groups of people; we all derive pleasure from inclusion of all our friends and relatives in family visits. In addition, basic access provides everyone with greater maneuverability and safety in performing everyday chores and activities, such as pushing baby strollers and bicycles or moving furniture, groceries and other awkward or heavy items into and within dwellings.

Substitute for Senate Bill 304 would only affect a subset of the housing stock in Kansas: certain single-family, duplex and triplex dwellings constructed or rehabilitated using public financial assistance. Yet this bill is an opportunity for the State to support a vision that future generations of housing in Kansas will be increasingly usable by everyone. It is imperative that public dollars for housing be spent only in a manner consistent with this nondiscriminatory vision of granting everyone equal residential choices and allowing all of us to invite all people into our homes. Access is a civil right.

I urge you to support Substitute for Senate Bill 304. If you have any questions, I would be glad to address them at any time. Thank you.

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To Whom It May Concern;

My name is Cecil E. Walker Jr. I live outside of Douglass, Ks. Back in May of 96 I had a wreck in New Mexico. I was in the hospital for 42 days. I came back home to Augusta and lived with my mother while I was recovering and doing physical therapy. My mother had to make her home accessible for me at a great cost to her. And she is retired. I lived with her for 2 1/2 years. After 11 surgeries I am no longer in a wheelchair. But I know in the future I will be back in a wheelchair and I hope by the passing of this bill I will be able to have an accessible home. And be able to go visit friends homes that are accessible I want to thank you for your time and your vote YES on this SB 304 Bill.

Yours Sincerely;

Cecil E. Walker

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Testimony to
House of Representatives
Committee on Federal and State Affairs,
Representative Tony Powell, Chairperson
On Substitute for Senate bill 304
By

Michael W. Weekley Jr.
March 9, 2000

Thank you, Chairperson Powell and Committee members for allowing me to testify today. My name is Mike Weekley.

I am a person with a disability, To get a greater understanding of my disability, Tie your shoelaces together, Put one arm behind your back, and stick a cotton ball in Your mouth, then try to balance a coffee cup on your head. Then do everyday tasks, but I have adapted but yet their needs to be some Change. In my opinion I know all things can be adapted to meet the needs of Every one with a disability, I am proud to be with a organization that is fighting for This right, who knows someday you, may benefit. What is needed most is Community education in understanding the needs of people with disabilities.

Thank you very much for your time,

Sincerely,
Mike Weekley

My name is Danny Ray Wilson & live in Douglass, Ks. I am a consumer on the HCBS - PD waiver. I am very much in favor of the SB 304 bill. Because when I bought my house I couldn't find any accessible housing in my community to buy. I have a muscle disorder and other disabilities so now I have to make my house accessible for me out of my own pocket. And I am on a fixed income. If there was accessible housing when I was looking I would of bought it instead. It seems to me it would be cheaper to build a house accessible at first than having to remodel a house to make it accessible.

Your's Truly
Thanks,
Danny Ray Wilson