



**Kansas House Health and Human Services Committee
Support of HB 2307**

February 12th , 2025

Chairman Carpenter and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lola Kernell and I am the Advocacy Coordinator for the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities (KCDD). KCDD's mission is to empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families to lead systems change, build capacity, and advocate for inclusive, integrated, accessible communities where everyone belongs and thrives throughout our state.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to share my story and express my support for HB 2307

Prenatal and Postnatal Diagnosed Conditions Awareness. Current evidence-based information must be collected, synthesized, and disseminated to the parents—information that celebrates the life of their baby and gives hope, not just facts focused on challenges.

This is important to me because my parents were encouraged to have an amniocentesis with the expectation of termination if any diagnosis of a disability was discovered. There was no clarification on miscarriage or other risks of an amniocentesis. When asked, the healthcare counselor said, "Yes, there are risks, but there is a greater risk of having a child with a disability." This comparison does not make sense!! Postdiagnosis at birth did not come from a doctor and was unprofessional. Even after I was born, doctors made false assumptions. One doctor was surprised when she discovered I was happy, well-adjusted, and able to learn, saying to my mom, "She can read?!" Obviously, the doctor had dated information about Down syndrome. Yes, I can read and write and work and learn French and Algebra (although that is definitely not my favorite) while being happy and successful in my life!

That's why this bill matters. Parents need real, hopeful information. HB 2307 would set up a hotline and local peer support groups to connect families to helpful resources and to each other. It would also make sure that healthcare providers follow guidelines and share supportive information with parents. My parents found the best information by talking to other families and joining peer support groups.

Please support this bill so people like me know that we matter, and so parents get the information they need to understand and celebrate their child's unique abilities.

Thank you.

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