

Senator Erickson and Members of the t Senate Committee on Government Efficiency

Thank you for giving your time and for allow me and others to speak concerning your consideration of House Bill 2240.

My name is Jim Huber. Normally at this time I would be doing a live broadcast to people of Kansas who are unable due to a physical disability to utilize printed materials. It is a program that reaches a large number of listeners and is for me a great joy and of highest priority in my life. So, it is only due to what I consider an utmost necessity for my own developmentally disabled child, his peers, many of whom I have come to know over the years and for whom I have come to have great affection, and for the providers of services for them for whom I also have come to have great respect for their dedication, their knowledge and expertise, and honestly their affection for those for whom they provide vital support.

I ask simply that you support the passage of this bill. It contains a needed charge which requires that changes to the Kansas IDD system be reviewed and approved by the legislature before they may be implemented. Our legislators represent us and the provider community who support us.

The presence of this legislation has in recent weeks brought about an opening of collaboration between representatives of the providers and of we who are the recipients of supports with the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services that had not previously existed at the level now existing.

In my experience, thorough planning and the use of expertise from those actually implementing policy and those living it daily results in efficiency in the introduction of change and in maximizing the beneficial aspects of the changes.

Continuation of this collaboration and meaningful dialogue among all the parties is absolutely essential and the requirement for it to continue must be supported and protected by this legislative action. I therefore again, ask for your support for HB 2240.