

March 7, 2025

Senate Committee on Government Efficiency

Dear Committee Chair Erickson and Committee Members,

I am providing written testimony today as a mother of a daughter with quadriplegic cerebral palsy, and other complex medical needs, advocating for families like mine who struggle daily to navigate the complex and ever-changing system of care. The changes being proposed by KDADS—conflict-free case management, unbundling of day services, and the transition from the BASIS assessment to MFEI—are overwhelming families like mine, and yet our voices seem to go unheard.

Caring for a child with complex medical and developmental needs is a full-time commitment. It means juggling doctor appointments, therapies, equipment needs, medications, and personal care—while also being an advocate, constantly fighting to ensure our loved ones receive the services they need to live with dignity. But on top of these daily challenges, we are now forced to spend hours making phone calls and sending emails to agencies that too often do not respond or provide any clear answers.

I have reached out time and time again, only to be met with silence or vague responses that leave me more confused than before. I have spent sleepless nights worrying about what the future holds for my daughter. I have cried to friends, feeling like I can't keep fighting this uphill battle alone. And I know I am not the only parent who feels this way.

That is why House Bill 2240 is so important. It ensures that families like mine have a voice in these policy changes that directly impact our loved ones. Legislative oversight is critical so that decisions are not made behind closed doors without input from those who are living this reality every day. We need transparency. We need communication. And most of all, we need to be heard.

I urge you to support HB 2240 and stand with the families who are fighting to protect the care and services our loved ones depend on.

Sincerely,

Melanie Jacobs (Sandra's mom)

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