

March 7, 2025

To: The Kansas Committee on Government Efficiency

From: Cammie Funston, Parent/Guardian

Re: HB 2240

Dear Senator Erickson and Committee Members:

I wrote to you exactly one month ago regarding Senate Bill 161. Now, it is my understanding that you will be reviewing a similar document, House Bill 2240, today.

You may recall that I am the mother of a forty-year-old woman with Down Syndrome. My daughter, Charity, works in a center-based day program. Charity finds joy in her work and is proud of her small paycheck. She is among her peers in a supported, caring environment. She is surrounded by professionals with whom she has a long-established rapport and who are qualified to tend to her physical and mental health needs, and social development. In her free time, Charity enjoys music, coloring, and hanging out with friends.

When the I/DD Waiver Program Modernization proposed by KDADS/LTSS first came into my consciousness last October, an incredible sense of anxiety washed over me. I saw my daughter's joy and security threatened. I struggled for months to get my questions answered and advocated fiercely for a meaningful voice at the table for myself and other stakeholders.

In the last few weeks, KDADS/LTSS staff and leadership has finally heard us – perhaps compelled by our many contacts to Kansas legislators. Since October, advocates have sent nearly 3,000 emails and letters, made personal visits, and testified before House and Senate Committees. In addition, I/DD advocates made phone calls, sent emails and letters, and scheduled visits with Governor Kelly, Secretary Howard, Commissioner Heydon, and LTSS staff. **It has taken all of this to finally get the ear of KDADS/LTSS and be invited into a collaborative process, so I am sure you can understand that our trust is tenuous.**

I ask the Committee on Government Efficiency to ensure that a meaningful collaborative process with stakeholders continues as a condition of approval and funding for the finalized I/DD Waiver Program Modernization.

Thank you for your time and commitment to serve all Kansans.

With Respect,

Cammie Funston

Parent/Guardian

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