



March 7, 2025

To: The Kansas Committee on Government Efficiency
From: Kevin Fish, AbilityPoint Executive Director
Re: HB 2240

Dear Senator Erickson and Committee Members:

I am sitting with a couple parents this morning who are trying to wrap their minds around the proposed changes and the why we are “Trying to fix something that is not broken”. For them, the providers serving their children have given them, as aging parents, a sense of security knowing their children will be taken care of when they are gone. In the case of both of these parents the proposals that were presented less than two months from when they were scheduled to begin would have completely up-ended their children’s services.

Because of advocacy taking place through the Holidays and our legislative leaders sharing those concerns it was delayed, but those parents reaching out directly to KDADS were told this has to happen, if they got a response at all. Several shared frustrations from the online the feedback forms limiting them to two sentences, zoom meetings with no time for questions, or questions asked with only we are still trying to figure that out responses. Providers have shared the same feeling with a perceived lack of interest in hearing other ideas that could address CMS’s concerns.

The legislators stepping in to say we need you to involve stakeholders to come up with a plan that everyone can agree on and then we’ll approve it made it clear: ‘no changes for us without us’.

Our IDD system is not afraid of change. They have adapted for years and developed their own specialized programs over the years to meet the needs and often changing needs for those they serve. They are creative and innovative. They live it everyday and can help create workable solutions to meet requirements while minimizing negative consequences that could come.

AbilityPoint would not be impacted by most of the changes proposed but hundreds of those we serve and their families would be. Like our dads sitting here with me we are greatly concerned that changes could be made with no additional oversight. We understand that it creates another step, but as our parents say they are jumping through so many hoops every year and have had to wait weeks, months and even years for things they kids need. It’s their turn to depend on someone else to approve what they need.

We are seeing progress in collaboration with work groups formed to address these items, but we have had parents share that they have served on workgroups with seemingly no resolution. They felt like it was simply to check a box and say they had it. Our families want to know that their thoughts and input will be heard and impact what is created.

Thank you for your leadership, concern and interest in our IDD community,

Kevin Fish
Executive Director