

Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of Kansas Posture Seating Support Initiative

March 5, 2025

To: Senate Committee on Ways & Means

From: Patrick Jonas, CEO (CPRFK)

Chairman Billinger, Vice Chair Claeys and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways & Means, I want to thank you for your willingness to allow me to provide testimony on behalf of the Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of Kansas (CPRFK) and our Posture Seating Program funded partially through the Department of Health and Environment, Services for Children with Special Health Care Needs (SCSHCN).

My colleague, John Cuffe, explains in his testimony what the posture seating service is and its value for those with significant disabilities who are dependent upon a wheelchair for mobility. Our organization has been providing this valuable service to nearly two-thirds of the state of Kansas for over 40 years.

Last year we provided service to 843 unduplicated clients residing in 67 different counties. Our Posture Seating Program has been supported by SCSHCN through the Department of Health and Environment for over 25 years and is the only certified Medicaid clinic south of the Kansas City area. The CPRFK's clinic not only provides services for clients in Wichita and South-Central Kansas but also hosts outreach clinics in Liberal, Garden City, Dodge City, Hays, Salina and Independence.

The four approved Kansas Medicaid clinics are:

- Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of Kansas in Wichita, KS
- Children's Mercy Hospital Seating Clinic, Kansas City, MO
- KU Medical Center Seating Clinic, Kansas City, KS
- Therapy in Motion PA, Olathe, KS

These clinics have a unique skillset meeting the following criteria outlined in the Kansas Rehabilitation Services KMAP manual:

Minimum Requirements of Sponsoring Organization: A sponsoring organization is defined as the company, corporation, or legal entity that provides the evaluation, fitting spaces and the medical professionals (employed or contracted). The sponsoring organization must hold certifications from an outside accrediting body that proves the organization has passed a regular inspection that assures that the facility is safe, efficient, and has a proven track record of providing quality medical services. The facility will have policies and procedures in place that prove the facility has records retention, HIPAA compliance, privacy practices etc. All medical professional employees/contractors are subject to the policies and procedures of the sponsoring organization.

Minimum Requirements for Team Members: The following outlines the minimum requirements for team members working in a Special Seating/Positioning Center. • **Medical Professionals (OT, PT, MD, DO, PA, or APRN):** This is the responsible party for the evaluation and Letter of Medical Necessity (LMN). **Two years of experience working with the population served (pediatrics, adults, or both).** Must maintain current licensure in the State of Kansas to practice in their individual fields. It is preferred that at least one medical professional in the clinic hold a current certification as an Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) though the Rehabilitation Engineering Society of North America (RESNA). • **Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Provider:** **An individual who has 2 years of experience in providing wheelchairs and seating systems to the population served (pediatrics, adults, or both).** • **Technician:** **An individual who has at least one year of experience at adjusting and repairing wheelchairs and seating systems to the population served (pediatrics, adults, or both)** or active mentoring with a technician who has five years of experience doing such. This technician may be employed by the DME provider

As mentioned, there are an extraordinary number of denials from Managed Care Organizations (MCO's), for new wheelchairs, parts, accessories and repairs. This leads to preventable hardships for clients, parents and guardians, secondary to extended delays.

We request that this committee convey to Medicaid that wheelchairs, wheelchair parts, accessories and repairs be allowed preauthorization status and unable to be denied, if ordered by a Medical Professional (defined in the KMAP above) practicing out of a Kansas Certified Medicaid Seating Clinic, and the clinic or staff do not receive any monetary gain from the transaction with the chosen DME.

This would build efficiency into the system and allow therapists to focus attention on evaluating the clients vs. spending countless hours attempting to justify equipment that the reviewer has little experience with.

In addition, I would ask the Committee to consider a funding boost to our Wichita clinic. The cost of equipment and service continues to rise, and reimbursement from Medicare, Medicaid and third-party insurances is minimal – together covering only 8% of our service costs. The combination of County, United Way, Insurance, and State funding via SCSHCN has made this program viable until recently.

This year our clinic is budgeted to have a \$388,000 deficit and without additional support the sustainability of serving the demand in our large geographic area, is in question. Our fundraising arm can generally raise close to \$125,000 annually. This still leaves us with a \$263,000 shortfall.

I would humbly request the committee to allow for an additional \$263,000 to fund our clinic. This amount is in the House-passed budget bill, HB 2007.

Thank you once again Chairman Billinger, Vice Chair Claeys and Committee members for this consideration in support of our Posture Seating Program.