

## June Christensen

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**From:** LARRY and GAYLA WARD [wardlg@embarqmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 14, 2012 8:36 AM  
**To:** Mike Kiegerl; Bill Wolf; Sean Gatewood; Steve Brunk; TerriLois Gregory; Melody McCray-Miller; Kelly Meigs; Charles Roth; John Rubin  
**Subject:** KanCare, managed care for Developmental Disabilities

To the members of the House Committee for Children and Families,

On February 2<sup>nd</sup> I testified in favor of HB 2444 to make the nonbinding guidelines on Seclusion and Restraint in to law. I am very passionate about the need for this to become law. It seemed like the House Committee really listened to us and saw through the arguments opponents of the guidelines becoming law brought forth. As I testified at this hearing I help lead a local support group for families living with developmental disabilities and I volunteer with Families Together and over the last 2 years I have been matched with several families across Kansas as a supporting parent. All this to say I having been talking to many families and hearing their stories.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the hearing last Tuesday regarding carving out Developmental Disabilities from KanCare, managed care by for profit insurance companies. Please know that I am just as passionately in favor of the carving out of DD from KanCare as I am about laws for the control of the use of Seclusion and Restraint. I heard about the hearing last Tuesday as I am in regular contact with Lurena Mead from JCDS and I greatly appreciate her tireless advocacy for the DD community. She indicated that the Governor, Lt Governor and legislators for the most part all keep up the mantra that KanCare will not change anything for the case management for those in the DD community. This "damn the torpedoes, full steam ahead" attitude is being perpetuated in spite of the valid concerns voiced by knowledgeable and credible advocates such as Lurena, Rocky Nichols from the DRC, Tom Laing and Matt Fletcher from InterHab, Bill Craig, President and CEO of Lake Mary, as well as many parents. It astounds all of us that our elected officials could honestly think that adding another layer of bureaucracy to the system, (thus far handled reasonably efficiently by the CDDOs of Kansas) using For Profit insurance companies, would not lead to unnecessary and undesirable changes in the way our developmentally disabled loved ones are served. For Profit insurance companies have proven that their bottom line is the almighty dollar and not the people they are providing insurance for. These insurance companies have said that they do not understand the long term needs of the DD community and will have to "learn". These For Profit insurance companies have long denied medical coverage for an autism diagnosis. These insurance companies operate by setting outcomes to be met, to allow them to cut costs and save money, **to make a profit**. It is quite possible that these For Profit insurance companies would set outcomes that are not reasonable based on their lack of understanding of the DD community's needs. According to Secretary Sullivan, during the hearing on Tuesday, life will be better, services won't change and folks with disabilities will be happier, healthier and live longer. How can For Profit Insurance companies promise this? How can Secretary Sullivan promise this? Representative Kiegerl, you have expressed a great desire to work to cut down the waiting list for those with DD. I greatly appreciate your desire to accomplish this goal. However the states that have implemented similar managed care systems with For Profit insurance companies have not been able to decrease their waiting lists.

I greatly appreciated the House Committee for Children and Families willingness to really listen to us during the hearing on Seclusion and Restraint. I ask that you and the committee do the same for our concerns regarding KanCare and not simply accept the idea that nothing will change and that "life will be better, services won't change and folks with disabilities will be happier, healthier and live longer" but really investigate these claims and look at the facts to determine if they are true or pie in the sky dreams.

HOUSE CHILDREN AND  
FAMILIES

DATE: FEBRUARY 14, 2012  
ATTACHMENT NO. 3-1

Thank you so much for your service to children and families,

Gayla Ward  
Gardner KS