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Room 548-S

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, I thank you for the opportunity of providing information on House Bill Number 2335, an Act concerning the Kansas act against discrimination proposing disability amendments. I am in favor of the Bill.

I have worked in the disability field since the late 1970's when I taught students with disabilities. In this job and in the ones that followed I saw discrimination against people because of their disability. It may have been wait persons asking me what the persons with a disability would like for dinner when they could and did know what they wished and were perfectly capable of conveying their order. I have also had people say the persons with disabilities could not work.

The amendments proposed for this law bring it into conformance with federal law at no cost and the Fiscal Note suggests that failure to pass this legislation could lead to loss of \$129,800 in federal grant funds. The reason to pass this bill is to provide clarification regarding persons with disabilities. This bill expands the definition of "regarded as having such an impairment" for clarification and provides a definition for "major life activities". Page 3-4, line 43 and Lines 1-28 provide further clarification regarding disabilities.

I do very much endorse this bill and urge you to pass it. As always, your time and attention is greatly appreciated and I would be happy to answer questions and can be reached at the e-mail and phone number below.

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