

Jane Rhys, Ph.D.
Disability Advocate
Jrhys67@yahoo.com

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Room 564-S

Madame Chairperson, members of the Committee, I thank you for the opportunity of providing information on Senate Resolution Number 1831, requesting the Governor to delay the implementation of the KanCare program until July 1, 2013. I am in favor of the Bill.

I have followed with great interest the proposed changes in the manner in which people with disabilities are provided services under the Kansas Medicaid program. The proposal is to contract with three companies, some or all of which may not be Kansas companies. Because this is a new way of funding and managing these programs, accountability is needed. Kansas must know that the companies are held accountable and receive oversight through an independent audit and evaluation. In addition, although there has been opportunity to comment on the KanCare concept, we have yet to see specifics of the program so our comments have been very general.

To make the major changes needed requires input and comments from the disability community, consumers, service providers, parents and family members, and advocates. To provide intelligent constructive advice requires knowledge of the proposal. Because we do not have such knowledge (we have only heard rumors) it is appropriate to ask the Administration to delay implementation and to provide the Medicaid systems stakeholders with more detailed information regarding the proposed changes. I attended a bidder's conference on this issue and they also had many questions that went unanswered. Therefore, I support this resolution and urge you to pass it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jane Rhys, Ph.D.
Disability Advocate
785-249-1943
jrhys67@yahoo.com