



## *Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities*

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*"To ensure the opportunity to make choices regarding participation in society  
and quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities"*

### **Senate Ways and Means**

February 15, 2012

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity of providing written testimony regarding ERO 41. I am Kerrie Bacon, the Interim Executive Director for the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities (KCDD). The Council is comprised of over 60% self advocates (people with developmental disabilities), parents and guardians of people with developmental disabilities. KCDD is a federally mandated and funded entity under the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000. Part of our responsibility is to study and examine the Kansas system for people who have developmental disabilities and to advocate with policymakers for improvements.

**The Council is supportive of the reorganization that would move the mental health services and disability waivers to the newly named Department for Aging and Disability Services.**

Aligning the Medicaid services so they are all within two agencies within the state of Kansas makes good fiscal sense and should improve communication and cooperation between divisions within the agencies. We have witnessed and appreciate a new openness to stakeholder input and look forward to working with the Department for Aging and Disability Services in the future.

Thank you for permitting me to testify. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

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