



INDEPENDENCE
INCLUSION
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TO: Rep. Dan Hawkins, Chair and Members
House Committee on Health and Human Services

FR: Tom Laing, Executive Director
InterHab

RE: HB 2315

Thank you, Members of the Committee for this hearing,

We are offering comments on HB 2315, to express our concerns on several questions in this bill that suggest the potential for unintended negative consequences. We appreciate the work of the Department to streamline and modernize the administration of their assigned work, and do not wish to frustrate progress on that, but, neither do we believe it is in anyone's interest to ignore potential problems with the bill. Nor should KDADS, the Legislature and we have to revisit this bill in the coming session because we moved forward in haste.

We urge that time be made available for additional hearings, prior to which concerned parties could confer with KDADS (for clarification on key points that might be helpful), or we that a subcommittee of the committee be assigned to work this bill, before the full committee makes its recommendation.

Among the concerns that should be addressed are the instances in which the homes of Kansas families where children receive services (as well as the private apartments of adults with IDD) would be redefined as "facilities". This would clearly be in conflict with Federal, State and Local efforts to move away from the higher costs of facility-driven rules and regulations and move more closely to persons having the right to receive some services in their homes. This is an unexpected change in policy and one which we are certain the State has not fully contemplated.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.