

Kansas Mental Health Coalition**February 11th, 2015****SB 123**

My name is Michael Rutz I'm a Special Education Teacher speaking on behalf as an opponent for my son Daniel Rutz and all the other individuals who would benefit by my speaking of not passing Senate Bill 123 and the discontinuance of anti-psychotic medications listed on the Medicaid preferred list. My son has been in and out of Kansas State Hospitals and Out Patient Clinics fifteen different times over the last year and a half. If it wasn't for my son being on Medicaid and accessing his medications at a lower cost his quality of life would have diminished greatly. Without the medications needed for his Anxiety, Bipolar, ADHD and PTSD symptoms, he would not been able to live by himself. I'm appalled at how the State of Kansas wants to continue to make cuts into Medicaid for the low income, disabled and mentally ill whom, without the assistance would be unable to lead some what of a normal life. Without access to the anti-psychotic medications how could these individuals take care of themselves and their families and lead a viable life. We owe every individual in the State of Kansas the opportunity to improve their quality of life and become a productive citizen within our communities.

My recommendations for an amendment would be to continue providing the medical support of the anti-psychotic drugs needed but with controls and monitoring measures in place for the distribution and use of anti-psychotic medications in questions. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Michael Rutz