

## Testimony in Opposition to HB 2356 (Support with adoption of DRC Kansas amendments)

Hello. My name is Brad Linnenkamp. I am a person with a disability and I work for the Self Advocate Coalition of Kansas (SACK). SACK is the statewide organization of the local self-advocate chapters of individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD).

As currently written, we cannot support HB 2356. However, we support the amendment being offered by Disability Rights Center of Kansas. If DRC Kansas' amendment is adopted, we would change to support this bill.

HB 2356 uses taxpayer dollars to incentivize the purchasing of goods and services from what amounts to a couple of "certified business" employers. The incentive is that it allows bidders for state contracts to obtain up to a 10% cushion to bid higher on state contracts if they purchase from certain employers who hire people with disabilities.

As currently written this bill creates winners and losers. The winners are certain Kansans with disabilities who have an incentive to be hired by a couple of "certified businesses." The losers are people with disabilities like myself for whom there is no incentive to hire.

You see, the last time I had a full HCBS Waiver assessment conducted, I was found NOT to be eligible for the Physical Disability (PD) Waiver. However, I am clearly a person with a disability. I meet the social security standards for disability, which is a precondition to qualify for Medicaid in Kansas. For some reason I was found not to be eligible for the PD Waiver. As HB 2356 is currently written, it discriminates against many people with disabilities, like myself, who have a disability but are not eligible for an HCBS Waiver. This bill picks winners and losers, and I would be considered a "loser" because there would be no incentive for a certified business to hire me. It's not just me. Many thousands of other people with disabilities would be losers under the current bill. People like my co-worker Kathy Lobb, who has an intellectual disability. She also is not eligible for an HCBS Waiver. Kathy has testified dozens of times before the Legislature. You might remember her passionate testimony on the Employment First Law before this Committee back in 2011. The amendment by DRC Kansas fixes this problem, and we would support the bill if that amendment is adopted.

Thank you. I will answer your questions at the appropriate time.