



INDEPENDENCE
INCLUSION
INNOVATION

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**To: Rep. John Barker, chairman
Members of the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs**
From: Tim Graham, Associate Director – InterHab
Date: March 1, 2018
Re: HB 2676

Chairman Barker and members of the Committee—

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony. My name is Tim Graham; I am the associate director for InterHab. We are the state association for providers of services to Kansans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (“I/DD”). For almost 50 years, we have been engaged on every substantive change in policy for persons with I/DD, including creation of the Developmental Disabilities Reform Act (“DDRA”).

Our members support the idea that providers need to be held accountable for meeting appropriate licensing standards and providing for the health and safety of those they serve.

However, I appear before you today as a neutral conferee on HB 2676, in large part because we do not understand the approach KDADS has taken in amending the DDRA, given that such language was taken out of the DDRA three years ago. It feels haphazard and unnecessary, and does not address the myriad issues that I/DD stakeholders face—many of which we have repeatedly brought to the State’s attention over the last two years.

We appreciate that KDADS staff have reached out to us regarding this bill—stakeholder input is a necessity to any well-formed and executed human services system. However, such reach-out should have occurred at the front end of the process, rather than after legislation has been introduced.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today regarding HB 2676. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.