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**Written-Only Testimony in Support of HB 2047
House Health and Human Services Committee
January 31, 2017**

Chairman Hawkins and members of the Committee:

My name is Mike Burgess. I am the Director of Policy & Outreach at the Disability Rights Center of Kansas (DRC). DRC is a public interest legal advocacy organization that is part of a national network of federally mandated organizations empowered to advocate for Kansans with disabilities. DRC is the officially designated protection and advocacy system in Kansas. DRC is a private, 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, organizationally independent of state government and whose sole interest is the protection of the legal rights of Kansans with disabilities.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2047.

The purpose of the office of inspector general is to establish a full-time program of audit, investigation and performance review to provide increased accountability, integrity and oversight of the state Medicaid program.

Unfortunately this position has remained unfilled for nearly three years.

We support having an independent and empowered KanCare Inspector General. Moving the position outside of the State Medicaid agency is a positive step towards realizing the vision of the IG. The IG will also need to have adequate resources, authority, and access to information to be able to do the job.

If passed, this bill would be one of several bills and concrete steps the Legislature can and should take to improve the KanCare Medicaid program.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support with you. I would be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.