



Topeka Independent Living Resource Center

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**Testimony on HB 2016
Presented to the House Committee on Transportation
by
Mike Oxford, Executive Director
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The Topeka Independent Living Resource Center (TILRC) is a civil and human rights organization. Our mission is to advocate for justice, equality and essential services for a fully integrated and accessible society for all people with disabilities. TILRC has been providing cross-age, cross-disability advocacy and services for over 30 years to people with disabilities across the state of Kansas. TILRC appreciates the opportunity to provide a cross-disability perspective on HB 2016.

The Independent Living Movement is based on the principle that the obstacles to choice, freedom, dignity and community integration for people with disabilities are largely social constructs. Over-medicalization defines people by their disability, instead of treating people as full citizens, with the potential and the pre-disposition to live independent, fulfilling lives.

When statistical data from 2013 to 2015 leads researchers to conclude that “almost half the people who die at the hands of police have some kind of disability.” (<http://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/half-people-killed-police-suffer-mental-disability-report-n538371>), the question facing the independent living movement is “what is the social construct that is resulting in this kind of violence in the disability experience?”

HB2016 is an attempt to address this question in a balanced and self-actualizing way. By allowing people with disabilities to choose to self-identify through the registry, and by using the same standard applied to obtaining other reasonable accommodations, HB 2016 seeks to provide law enforcement officers a resource in dealing with people who may require accommodations or intervention from professionals outside of the law enforcement field.

Our agency appreciates the efforts of Representative Finney and the Revisor of Statutes staff to make HB2016 language consistent with other state and federal language. Thank you also to the members of the House Transportation Committee for your time and mindful attention.

Advocacy and services provided by and for people with disabilities.