



INDEPENDENCE
INCLUSION
INNOVATION

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**To: Sen. Caryn Tyson – Chairperson
Members of the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee**
From: Tim Graham – Associate Director, InterHab
Date: March 21, 2018
Re: HB 2416/Proponent/Written Only

Chairperson Tyson and members of the Committee—

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 2416. I am the associate director for InterHab; we represent community-based services providers and community developmental disability organizations (“CDDOs”) across Kansas. Together, we have been collaboratively engaged with the State regarding services for the developmentally disabled for almost 50 years.

We support passage of HB 2416; it will provide for the continuation of employment opportunities for Kansans with developmental disabilities, regardless of changes to federal regulation. Employment is one of the sure-fire ways that persons with disabilities can lead independent and inclusive lives in their communities. To lose such opportunities would be nothing less than catastrophic for persons served.

You only need to look towards the successes by InterHab members like the Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation (and its related organizations, including Center Industries and Business Technology Career Opportunities), who have worked tirelessly over the last 40+ years to provide and promote employment opportunities. Without their determination and advocacy, many Kansans with developmental disabilities would have been left without options.

We ask that, through passage of HB 2416, you set the foundation for continued employment opportunities for our family members, friends, and neighbors who rely upon such opportunities to live independently and inclusively. By doing so, you will make it known that the State of Kansas continues to support and honor those with developmental disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.