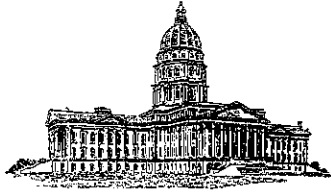


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ERIN L. DAVIS
15TH DISTRICT

January 17, 2018

Chairwoman Schmidt,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you this morning on a topic that is very near to my heart – non-discrimination in organ transplant.

I was happy to champion HB2343 in 2017 and am grateful you have chosen to grant this important issue a hearing this year.

As is often the case with bills legislators champion, it is personal experience that makes this topic so poignant for me. In 2000, my nephew Dakota was born. By the time Dakota was four years old, he had undergone a stem cell transplant and our family was becoming aware he most likely had special needs. Although Dakota has never been officially diagnosed with Autism, that is most closely how I can explain his disability. Additionally, Dakota is diagnosed with a low IQ.

In late 2016, our family became aware that Dakota was in need of a new kidney. It is at this time the topic of discrimination in organ transplant became especially important to me. Although unaware of widespread discrimination in organ transplants in Kansas, I believe HB2343 takes an important step by proactively declaring Kansas values all lives and protects the right to receive needed treatments.

During this week that we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. whose lifework was fighting discrimination, it seems especially fitting we discuss, and hopefully pass out of committee, HB2343 and declare Kansas will not discriminate against the disabled.

Thank you for your indulgence.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erin L. Davis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Representative Erin L. Davis