



January 9, 2018

**Re: In Support of HB 2343; Ensuring nondiscrimination of organ transplants on the basis of disability**

Chair Schmidt and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare,

Autism Speaks submits this testimony in support of House Bill 2343, which would ensure that individuals with disabilities will not be banned from an organ transplant waitlist solely based on their disability.

Autism Speaks is the nation's leading autism awareness, science, and advocacy organization. We are dedicated to promoting solutions, across the spectrum and throughout the life span, for the needs of individuals with autism and their families. We do this through advocacy and support, increasing understanding and acceptance, and advancing research and information. Autism Speaks supports non-partisan policies that meet the autism community's needs.

Reports of individuals with disabilities, including autism, being denied access to life-saving organ transplants on the basis of their disability are very troubling.<sup>1</sup> In response, several states *e.g.*, California, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Oregon have enacted laws that prohibit this type of discrimination. While incidents of such discrimination occurring in Kansas may be uncommon, this legal protection should be in place to prevent the possibility of transplantation discrimination in the future. Please support passage of HB 2343.

Respectfully submitted,

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<sup>1</sup> Bodey, Sunshine. "Opinion | My Son Has Autism. Discrimination Almost Cost Him His Life." *The Washington Post*, WP Company, 30 Aug. 2017, [www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/my-son-has-autism-discrimination-almost-cost-him-his-life/2017/08/30/b899dc58-88e8-11e7-961d-2f373b3977ee\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.fbfaeeae383e](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/my-son-has-autism-discrimination-almost-cost-him-his-life/2017/08/30/b899dc58-88e8-11e7-961d-2f373b3977ee_story.html?utm_term=.fbfaeeae383e).