

Kansas Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee Hearing On SB 332  
February 9, 2018

My name is Ron Fugate and I am the parent of 43-year-old Nick Fugate who is intellectually and developmentally disabled. I and others who you saw in the video believe KanCare has created a bureaucracy that hinders the quality of services and supports our loved ones depend on to live in their communities.

A less costly solution is right here in our own backyard. I speak of the 27 Community Developmental Disability Organizations that span the state. They are the gatekeepers. They are the service coordinators. They maintain networks of service providers.

I speak of the professional, targeted case managers specially trained in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities. They have better knowledge and understanding of our children's needs. They ensure our kids receive the most appropriate community supports available.

Most importantly, I speak of quality of care. In September, Families for KanCare Reform conducted the first statewide survey of parents and guardians. We measured their satisfaction with KanCare comparing local targeted case managers to insurance company care coordinators.

Throughout the survey, targeted case managers significantly outranked insurance company care coordinators on every satisfaction performance level, including:

- Overall satisfaction, 91% to 58%
- Quality of help given, 94% to 65%
- Closeness of relationship with family, 89% to 51%.
- Responding to questions and concerns within a day or two, 90% to 52%.

The MCOs have had four years to figure out how to deliver quality services to special needs Kansans and they continue to miss the mark. All the while, the state pays these insurance companies millions of dollars for service coordination that has failed. All when there is a more efficient, less expensive, local model and a network of targeted case managers doing the real work.

All at a time when providers can't find direct care staff because of poverty level wages. When temporary and inadequate staffing increase the chances of harm to our kids. When delays in reimbursement endanger the fiscal solvency of smaller providers, forcing some already to go out of business. When there are roughly 3,700 Kansans with intellectual or developmental disabilities on a seven-year waiting list for these services. When parent frustration continues to grow.

It's time to remove long-term care services and supports for our special needs kids from KanCare and bring them back to local county oversight and administration. This is why we ask you to support Senate Bill 332.