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“To ensure the opportunity to make choices regarding participation in society and quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities”

Feb. 9, 2018

Re: Proponent with the DRC Balloon Language on SB 332

Chair Senator Vicki Schmidt, and members of the Committee on Public Health and Welfare.

I am Steve Gieber, Executive Director of the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities (KCDD). The Council is made up of self-advocates, family members, state agencies, and our partners identified in the Federal Developmental Disabilities Act.

Federal and state laws created the Council to advise policymakers on issues that impact people with disabilities and their families as well as carryout activities that increase Self-Advocacy, Systems Change, and Capacity Building.

The Council’s intent was to provide neutral testimony on SB 332, and make suggested changes. Those changes have been incorporated in (DRC) Disability Rights Center’s testimony.

We have concerns with the striking of some language and some of the new proposed language.

The language proposed by DRC addresses those concerns. The council supports SB 332.

The Council wants a system that is flexible and sustainable with adequate rates to allow individuals who provide the services to earn a decent living with effective oversight and a system in place to prevent Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation.

Steve Gieber

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