



Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 332
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
Ed Eilert, Chairman, Johnson County Board of County Commissioners
February 9, 2018

Dear Senator Schmidt and Members of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee:

On behalf of the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners and the citizens of Johnson County, Kansas, I am testifying as a proponent of SB 332. This bill would modernize and improve the Developmental Disabilities Reform Act. One of the hallmarks of that landmark 1995 legislation was continuing our history of the state-local partnership of an Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities system under the direction of local entities, closest to the individuals served.

Until the introduction of privatized managed care to our system in 2013, Community Developmental Disability Organizations oversaw the funding for Home and Community Based Services that allowed individuals with I/DD to live and work in the community as opposed to institutionalized settings. The Statewide Funding Committee monitored the CDDO allocation of dollars, and the state functioned as the single payer. We essentially operated as a managed care system, one with much less bureaucracy compared to today, and one that did not involve for-profit companies.

For the past four years under KanCare, I have heard countless concerns from Johnson County families. They have struggled under privatized managed care as services were reduced for their loved ones, and have experienced frustration dealing with Managed Care Organizations who understand the medical arena much more than they do the Long Term Supports and Services system.

Simply put, KanCare has not produced the outcomes promised by the state administration to the Johnson County commission and our constituents. Increased expertise through KanCare for community employment and behavioral care for those with I/DD have not yet materialized. Medicaid savings through KanCare were intended to eliminate the I/DD waiting list, which today is 20 percent higher compared to December 2014 (the earliest available report online). Services have been cut for individuals served despite the state's assurance that there would be no cuts to benefits.

SB 332 returns us to a locally-managed partnership between counties and the state. The infrastructure for this system, including the CDDOs and the state agency staff, still exists today as it did pre-KanCare. In the quest for continuous improvement, it's time to build upon the DDRA and improve the lives of people with disabilities in our state.