

**Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of Kansas
Testimony in Support of House Bill 2356**

April 2017

**To: Senate Ways and Means Committee
From: Patrick Terick, Governmental Activities Director (CPRFK)**

Ref: Testimony in Support of House Bill 2356

Chairperson McGinn and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee. I want to thank you for your willingness to allow me to provide testimony in Support of House Bill 2356 as a member of the Coalition for Opportunity, the State Use Law Committee and on behalf of the Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of Kansas (CPRFK).

The Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of Kansas (CPRFK) support organizations, Center Industries Corporation (CIC) and Business Technology Carrier Opportunities (BTCO) are non-profit certified businesses. Both organizations employ persons with disabilities and abled-bodied persons in an integrated employment environment. We pay commensurate wages and fringe benefits (including health insurance and a 403(b) retirement program) to all of our full time employees.

We are supportive of the amendments in HB 2356.

As it currently stands a certified business has to send a list of their disabled employees to the Division of Purchasing in a sealed envelope who then send it to the Kansas Department on Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) for certification. The first amendment would add Kansas Rehabilitation Services, who is the primary placement agency in the State, for persons with disabilities, as a certifying body along with KDADS.

The second amendment would allow a Certified Businesses to certify every three years. Today a certified business has to reapply every year as if it were a new business. This puts an undue hardship on people with chronic disabilities that we employ, having to go to their physician each year just to verify that their disability, such as Cerebral Palsy, traumatic brain injuries or spinal cord injuries have been resolved.

I wish to thank you again for your time Chairperson McGinn and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee for your willingness to allow me to provide testimony in Support of House Bill 2356 as a member of the Coalition for Opportunity, the State Use Law Committee and on behalf of the Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of Kansas (CPRFK).