

HB 2416
Oral Neutral Testimony
Robyn Herzog

Chairman Tarwater and members of the committee:

My name is Robyn Herzog. I am a self advocate who knows firsthand the benefits of working in the community and making at least minimum wage. I live in my own apartment and pay my own bills.

When I worked in a sheltered workshop, I was only paid \$1.50 per hour. Needless to say that made it very difficult for me to afford to pay my bills.

Thankfully, I now work in the community at One Of A Kind Daycare and make a real wage. Being in the community is so important to me as I love what I do. I make real money, and also have made some great friends along the way. I want you to help other Kansans with disabilities to have an opportunity to work in the community too.

My employment story was recently featured by the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities as a part of Disabilities Employment Awareness Month last fall. You can watch the short video (1 minute and 11 seconds) on YouTube at <https://tinyurl.com/robyn-h>.

While I do not support HB2416 as it was drafted, I would be in support of it with the DRC amendment. With the amendment, this is a great opportunity to help more Kansans with disabilities to be able to work in the community making at least minimum wage like me.

If you have any questions about what it is like to work in a sheltered workshop versus living and working in the community and making at least minimum wage, I would love the opportunity to share this experience with you.

I would be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.