



LAURA KELLY, Governor • KATHY KECK, Chairperson • STEVE GIEBER, Executive Director

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

Jan. 24. 2019

Re: Proponent HB 2034

Chair Representative Barker, and members of the Federal and State Committee.

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.

Supported Decision-Making is a legal alternative to guardianship. It is also a means to empower people with disabilities, and the aging, to remain at the center of decision-making processes in their lives.

People who want to use supported decision-making can: 1) Think about the type of decisions they need help making. 2) Choose people they trust to help them make decisions. 3) Ask these individuals to be their supporters. 4) Complete a written plan called a Supported Decision-Making Agreement. 5) Provide the agreement to people like doctors and service providers.

Research shows that maximizing choice and control (self-determination) in a person’s life increases positive health outcomes, happiness, and safety through stronger relationships and better ability to recognize and resist abuse.

Supported Decision-Making is normal. Most people use informal supports in making personal decisions. We draw on the support of family and friends in managing our own decision-making with financial institutions or doctors, for example.

Steve Gieber

Director, KCDD

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