



A Division of TARC Inc



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House Commerce Committee
Written Testimony in Favor of HB 2174

Shelby Fry
March 7, 2019

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Chair Lynn and Honorable Members of the Committee:

My name is Shelby Fry and I am the Director of TARC Industries/Employment Services for TARC located here in Topeka, Kansas. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before this committee regarding House Bill 2174 which extends the sunset date of the Kansas State Use Law Committee another 5 years to June 30, 2024.

Since February 8, 1954, TARC has provided service and supports to adults and children with intellectual disabilities and developmental delays in the Shawnee County area. As we celebrate our 65th year, TARC remains as committed as ever to providing community based services that enable community engagement and a high quality life. We believe that the Kansas State Use Law (KSUL) complements this mission driven objective.

During 2004 the Kansas State Use Law Committee was formed. It was also during this time that TARC began participating in the program. We began participating for two reasons: The first reason was we knew that it would help drive work opportunities for those we support. The second reason was we had customers requesting we become a KSUL vendor. By becoming a vendor, our State customers knew that it would make it easier and faster for them to access services from us. After much work, TARC became an approved vendor. TARC currently provides document destruction and janitorial services through this program.

Mike F. has worked in TARC's document destruction program for several years. Mike has an intellectual disability and extensive hearing loss. He's an avid runner and enjoys staying fit. Working in document destruction is a good placement for him since it requires physical exertion and repetitive work steps. The training wages that Mike receives help him purchase items and services in his local community. He enjoys going out to eat with his mother, buying K-State apparel, and purchasing magazines. This program provides great work opportunity for

Affiliated with
Shawnee County CDDO

Sabrina Winston
Director

An affiliated chapter of



TARC Industries' Mission

TARC Industries is a non-profit production facility that provides employment opportunities and work related experiences for persons with developmental disabilities.

Mike, while also fulfilling a need for the State, local municipalities, local schools and community businesses.

I am serving my second term as Chair of the Kansas State Use Law Committee. The KSUL Committee works in partnership with potential purchasers to identify current and emerging needs for State agencies and school districts. The goal of the KSUL is not to have the State or schools purchase goods and services that they have no need for; rather the goal is to provide competitive goods and services that the State and schools have identified that they want and can use. In addition, the KSUL Committee is charged with assuring the pricing of the products and services in the program are competitive. We work with the SUL vendors and the Director of Purchasing to oversee that prices submitted are in-line with market prices. Without the KSUL Committee, I worry that the program will flounder without a group at the helm to ensure that the program is used appropriately, that goods and services continue to meet the needs of our customer and are priced competitively. I believe in the value that this program gives to State agencies and to those with Intellectual Disabilities.

The State of Kansas spends millions of dollars each year on our Special Education system. The natural next step in the chain is "work". The use of this program in systems like TARC, allow interesting and unique work opportunities for hundreds of adults in Kansas. The KSUL system affords a wide-range of work opportunities in a large variety of work settings. This variety leads to work sampling and training for individuals that can lead ultimately to individual community- based employment. With appropriate oversight that the KSUL Committee provides, this program is an excellent opportunity to highlight the skills and abilities of those with disabilities, while also providing competitive products and services to our State, local municipalities, and school systems.

I appreciate your time and I would be happy to answer any questions. You can reach me at sfry@tarcinc.org.