



INDEPENDENCE
INCLUSION
INNOVATION

700 SW Jackson St., Suite 1100
Topeka, KS 66603
p: 785.235.5103
f: 785.235.0020
e: interhab@interhab.org

January 23rd, 2020

TO: Senator Gene Suellentrop and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

FR: Nick Wood, Associate Director, InterHab

RE: Senate Bill 252

Chair Suellentrop and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to share information on behalf of the member organizations of InterHab. Our members serve Kansans with intellectual and developmental disabilities in every part of the state.

InterHab has consistently testified in support of expanding Medicaid up to the 138% limit under the Affordable Care Act for many years now. Expanding Medicaid in Kansas would make health care affordable for the thousands of dedicated but low-paid workers who help Kansans with disabilities with daily tasks like dressing, housekeeping, toileting and participating in their communities.

InterHab's members applaud the collaborative work that enabled SB 252 to come to fruition, and lend their voice of support to passage of Medicaid expansion. It is long overdue and will help thousands of Kansans in addition to our direct care workforce.

However, we request that the committee further explore the following elements of SB 252 that are of concern to our members. Language allowing tiering of benefits could have negative impacts for persons with disabilities, and other states have struggled with similar concepts. SB 252 also contains language that appears to further cement the existing KanCare structure into statute, thereby making it more difficult to make future changes to managed care without legislative action. This language does not seem to add anything of benefit to the bill and our members would like the committee to examine it very thoughtfully. We are willing to work with the legislature and stakeholder groups on these issues and will also share these concerns directly with the administration.