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NAME: Doug Wisby, President/CEO MCDS
BILL: SB 210
SUPPORT: In support of this bill
TESTIMONY: Written only
COMMITTEE: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 28, 2019

Honorable Senator Carolyn McGinn
Chairperson
Kansas Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Kansas State Capital Building
Room 548-S
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, Ks. 66612

RE: SB 210

Dear Senator McGinn and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

I am providing written testimony on behalf of Multi Community Diversified Services a community service organization that has provided services to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities for 45 years.

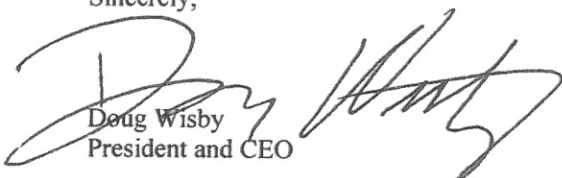
MCDS has been a member of KPERS for many years. Unfortunately our reimbursement rates do not allow for the payment of a competitive wage in our community. In addition, for the same reasons, we cannot as an organization afford to provide medical insurance to our employees. Unfortunately this has led to a turnover rate for our employees who work with our clients in excess of 100% per year as well as significant staffing shortages. Working with the people we serve can be very difficult, the hours can be long and unfortunately the pay and benefits are low. When you couple these things with the fact that our entry-level employees are subject to an hourly deduction of roughly \$0.70 per hour for KPERS it's not surprising our turnover is so high.

Senate Bill 210 is collaboration between a number of community service providers like MCDS and the staff and legal counsel at KPERS. This bill would allow for a training period for newly hired individuals who work directly with our clients to determine if a career as a direct support professional is something the employee wishes to pursue. It would also put roughly \$0.70 cents per hour back into their pockets as well as save MCDS roughly one dollar per hour that could be put into their wages and benefits by the company.

It is unfortunate that vast majority of all the monies placed in the KPERS system are lost to our entry level employees and MCDS. This affects our ability to hire and retain entry-level employees, the quality of our supports and the safety of those we serve as well as the financial health of MCDS.

Please support Senate Bill 210.

Sincerely,



Doug Wisby
President and CEO

Doug Wisby, President and CEO, Rachel Leslie, COO

Board of Directors: Carlton Spencer, Chair; Doug Curtright, Vice-Chair; Cindy Kinnaman, Secretary/Treasurer; Joan Fitzjarrald Sue Johnson; Verla Thomason