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Disability Rights Center of Kansas
214 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 100 ♦ Topeka, KS 66603
Phone: 785.273.9661 ♦ Toll Free: 1.877.776.1541
Toll Free TDD: 1.877.335.3725 ♦ Fax: 785-273-9414
www.drckansas.org info@drckansas.org

Proponent for HB 2219
House Commerce, Labor & Economic Development Committee
February 16, 2021

Chairman Tarwater and members of the Committee:

My name is Mike Burgess. I am the Director of Policy & Outreach at the Disability Rights Center of Kansas (DRC). DRC is a public interest legal advocacy organization that is part of a national network of federally mandated organizations empowered to advocate for Kansans with disabilities. DRC is officially designated by the State of Kansas as Kansas' protection and advocacy system. DRC is a private, 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, organizationally independent of state government and whose focus is the protection and enhancement of the rights of Kansans with disabilities.

I am here today to share our support for HB2219, the Kansas Targeted Employment Act.

This committee put in a lot of work on the previous version of the Kansas Targeted Employment for Kansans with Disabilities Act (H. Sub for HB 2416), and we are happy to be here and support that work product.

Individuals with disabilities are typically the last hired and first fired during tough times. While this bill by itself is not going to solve this, it should make a meaningful impact on increasing competitive, integrated employment opportunities for Kansans with disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of HB2219. I would be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.