



INDEPENDENCE  
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INNOVATION

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February 14, 2022

TO: Representative Fred Patton, Chair, and  
Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FR: Matt Fletcher, Executive Director, InterHab

RE: Support for HB 2652

Chairman Patton and members of the committee, thank you for your work last legislative session in extending pandemic liability protections to IDD service providers. Your efforts provided needed relief to professionals engaged in the vital provision of services to Kansans with intellectual and developmental disabilities on a 24/7 basis. As this committee begins work again on this issue, we respectfully request that you consider passage of HB 2652, which will ensure the continuance of COVID-related liability immunity for the Kansas community-based IDD service network.

Kansans with IDD are at risk of serious complications from COVID-19 at a significantly higher levels than the general population. Many Kansans with IDD also have physical health conditions that have been proven to be co-morbidity factors for heightened danger to COVID-19. Data has shown that persons with IDD are between 2 and 10 times more likely to die from COVID-19 than the general population. As such, Kansas IDD service providers have taken significant measures to keep the persons they serve healthy during the pandemic and will continue to do so until the danger has passed.

While Kansas IDD providers will continue to do everything within their power to keep their service population safe, they will face increasing risks while doing so. These providers have not closed their doors due the pandemic and they will continue to provide supports in the safest manner possible.

COVID-related liability immunity has significantly aided Kansas IDD service providers in navigating unprecedented circumstances during the past year. Providers have worked incredibly hard to protect the persons they serve to the greatest degree possible. HB 2652 will help ensure that they can continue to perform that valuable work with greater piece of mind.

Thank you again for your efforts on this issue during the 2021 Legislative Session. We respectfully request that you continue this important protection for the IDD service network.