



LAURA KELLY, Governor • KATHY KECK, Chairperson • STEVE GIEBER, Executive Director

“To empower individuals with I/DD and their families to lead systems change, build capacity, and advocate for inclusive, integrated, accessible communities where everyone belongs and thrives.”

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Good morning, thank you for this opportunity to speak today as a representative of the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities. My name is Liz Long, and I am a Policy Analyst for (KCDD).

I am here to oppose the SB 316/ HB 2549 and to support Kansans with disabilities to express their right to live where they choose. The fact that they might need to have roommates to afford to live in a community or staff to assist them with day-to-day tasks should not limit their choice of housing. The point of community-based living is to avoid institutionalized housing which restricts people’s choice of where and who they live with. Personal choice is a basic right we all cherish and should not be limited by others because of a disability. We all want neighbors we like and who watch out for each other, neighbors who will shovel each other’s walk, let you know when the garage door is open, or your pet has wandered away. No one wants to live in an industrial park.

While people sometimes get uncomfortable around people that look or speak differently, persons with disabilities are not to blame for that discomfort.

Some people are concerned about traffic or parking in their neighborhoods. I would like to point out that neighborhoods already have significant traffic, lawn services, pool maintenance, house keepers, fed ex, amazon, ups, US postal, meals on wheels, grocery stores to name a few. Adding someone’s staff to that list to allow for important work of medication administration, cooking or bathing support seems like a minor addition to the existing traffic.

So, it would seem limiting the number of unrelated people who can live in a house, number of cars they can own or visitors they can have might be a fairer piece of legislation rather than singling people out because of their disability.

As representatives of all Kansans, I urge you to consider all the far-ranging impacts of this suggested piece of legislation.

Thank you. I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.

DD Act Values: Independence, Productivity, Integration, Capacity Building, Self-Determination & Inclusion in Community, Free from Abuse, Neglect & Exploration

KCDD Values: Person-Centered, Impactful Outcomes, Respectful, Collaborative, Innovative, Equitable Opportunity