



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

*“To ensure the opportunity to make choices regarding participation in society
and quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities”*

March 22, 2021

Re: Proponent House Bill No. 2151

Chair Hilderbrand members of Senate Public Health and Welfare

I am Steve Gieber, Executive Director of the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities (KCDD). The Council is made up of self-advocates, family members, state agencies, and our partners identified in the Federal Developmental Disabilities Act. The Council is to advise policy makers on issues impacting people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their families. The Council has three roles set out in both Federal and State Statute. Those roles are to provide advocacy, build capacity and effect systemic change.

The Council supports HB 2151 creating the Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Team. Every five years in preparation to the drafting the KCDD five year plan the Council performs a comprehensive review and analysis of the key issues concerning people with disabilities and their families. In each of the last two five year cycles the issue of abuse neglect and exploitation has been identified as a priority concern for people with disabilities and their families.

National data shows that people that are experiencing Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in their lives are seven times more likely to be victims of abuse neglect and exploitation than the general public. Not only is this unacceptable on so many levels the other issue we hear a lot about is the concern that many times people with disabilities are not seen as credible witnesses and they get victimized a second time by our local justice systems.

The Council believes it is critically important for people with disabilities interest to be represented on these regional teams and that we take a systemic view of the issues of abuse neglect and exploitation and make progress on reducing the number of Kansans with disabilities who are victims. The Council will be able to take a boarder view and look for ways to make systemic changes so that we can reduce the number of people with disabilities who become victims.

The Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities ask that we be included in the local teams and be supported in making systemic progress on this critical issue. This wouldn't have any impact on the fiscal note the Council is 100% Federally funded.

We strongly support the Attorney General's office efforts in the area of abuse, neglect and exploitation. The Council supports this bill and see it as a very important step in the prevention of abuse neglect and exploitation.

I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Steve Gieber Executive Director KCDD 7850296-2609