



January 16, 2024

RE: HB 2345 Supported Decision Making Agreements Act

Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB2345. Kansas Advocates for Better Care (KABC) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of long-term care for older adults no matter where they choose to reside.

We appreciate your interest in Supported Decision Making (SDM). Unlike guardianship, Supported Decision Making empowers adults with disabilities to make their own decisions with the assistance of trusted friends or family, fostering self-determination and preserving dignity.

Supported Decision Making has gained national momentum, with 27 states and the District of Columbia passing legislation related to this less restrictive option.

By legally recognizing this option, it would provide legal protections and make it easier for trusted family and friends to assist their loved ones. This option has the potential to save Kansas money by keeping people out of the court system, allowing the court to focus on necessary guardianship cases.

The current bill proposed for Supported Decision Making would define roles, establish agreements, create safeguards against abuse, and encourage consideration of Supported Decision Making before guardianship. Passing this bill would save time and resources in probate courts, offering a less restrictive option than guardianship.

Benefits of Supported Decision Making include protecting against abuse, keeping loved ones involved, giving people with disabilities a better quality of life, providing families freedom from unnecessary government interference, and offering an affordable option compared to guardianship.

We encourage your support for this bill, as it aligns with ethical principles and promotes a more inclusive and empowering approach to decision-making for adults with disabilities.

As the Executive Director of Kansas Advocates for Better Care, I offer our support of HB 2345. KABC views that the Supported Decision-Making Act would provide an additional and less restrictive option to guardianship and in doing offers an opportunity to improve the lives for older Kansans.

Sincerely,

*Daniel Goodman*

Daniel Goodman  
Executive Director  
Kansas Advocates for Better Care

Kansas Advocates for Better Care. A statewide, non-profit organization dedicated to improving long-term care for older Kansans at-home and in adult care facilities since 1975.