



House Judiciary Committee
Wednesday, January 17 2024
Re: HB 2345

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

The Kansas Association of Centers for Independent Living is comprised of eight Centers for Independent Living (CILs) who provide services to persons with all types of disabilities, of all ages, and all income levels. Additionally, the majority of CIL employees and CIL board of directors are people with disabilities. We feel this gives us a unique perspective when discussing the capacity of persons with disabilities to make decisions that effect their lives. We are happy to provide testimony in support of HB 2345 and supported decision making agreements.

KACIL supports alternatives to guardianship which often is unnecessary and actually may create more of a burden for all parties involved. Instead, KACIL supports alternatives such as Supported Decision Making which brings together the individual and people they choose, like friends, family, or professionals to make knowledgeable choices in support of the persons goals and desires.

Supported Decision Making works – in fact, if you pause to think about it, most of us use this model in our everyday lives and especially when making big decisions. Through our day-to-day activities, KACIL members hear that families are encouraged to seek guardianship of their family members with disabilities. In fact, we have heard families say that people tell them they *must* seek guardianship. We hope to dispel this myth and promote self-determination for individuals. While guardianship may be the right path for some individuals, this choice should be limited to a needed basis and not proposed as a necessary path. We request your consideration of HB 2345. Thank you.

Audrey Schremmer, E.D. Three Rivers Inc and KACIL Board Secretary

KACIL Members:

Independence Inc., Lawrence KS

Independent Connection, Salina KS

Independent Living Resource Center, Wichita KS

LINK, Inc., Hays KS

Three Rivers Inc., Wamego KS

Resource Center for Independent Living Inc., Osage City KS

The Whole Person, Kansas City KS