

March 20, 2023

Dear Chairman Billinger and members of the Committee:

My name is Ronda Hubbard, and I'm wanting to give my testimony of how "SB308" should be considered for individuals with disabilities.

In the year of 2012 I got hurt on-the-job at St. Francis Health Care, working in the Emergency Department as an "CNA" with many other duties to perform in the position I held. Needless to say I was terminated. And for about 6 months I looked for employment with these physical injuries. Because of the injuries I sustained the Health Care Provider shared with me that I will always be limited.

Another way I decided to take was Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program with DCF here in Topeka Kansas. My time with DCF was 2013 to 2019 to become self-sufficient again. During this time each Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor told me because my case was rare and with our system here in Topeka Kansas they're limited on what could be done after the switches of counselors each year.

Without any type of financial assistance from DCF it got very hard. I got on Food Stamps, which I only was eligible for by DCF standards. Me and my family members went through many diverse struggles. Struggles such as: Medical, Utility, Gas, Car and Renter's Insurance Bills that needed to get paid. During 2013 to 2019 with DCF, Vocational Rehabilitation Services processing by assessments and much testing, I still didn't receive any financial assistance after participating in DCF Programs. Which brings me to the importance of this bill "SB308" because life is still taking place, and we having to pay the same price as everyone else.

Having a physical disability only makes it hard for an individual to get assistance with having to pay for someone to come in your home and clean is a cost to that individual with disabilities with the other life bills. Meaning Home and Community Base Services with KDADS cost money for individuals to assist in any capacity. Then, if you're not receiving income help is out of the question.

There's not a program that can help at my age and being without a child at home. I was 46 years old when I was injured and 55 years old now, still red tape with insurance and assistance because I'm not 62 or older.

I'm on Social Security Disability with Medicare and Medicaid now, but I'm still affected because of eligibility guidelines by the different assistance organizations.

This affects me, my family, my church, and my community because of the lack of financial contributions to help support.

As an individual with disabilities that works to assist in our self-sufficiency are taken by "Eligibility." If you make too much Social Security is taking away, and we still have these Physical Disabilities and everything that goes with the limitations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ms. Ronda Hubbard