



Hello, my name is Colin Olenick and I am the Legislative Liaison for the Self Advocate Coalition of Kansas. I would like to discuss the new Community Support Waiver that was recommended by the I/DD Modernization Committee last year. As you work on passage of the waiver, there are several things I would ask that you consider. First, assuring that people with disabilities will have budget authority across services provided by the waiver will be important. This will ensure that persons with I/DD and their families have full control over the services they receive. Second, the importance of this waiver cannot be expressed enough. A Community Support Waiver will allow individuals who have been waiting for years for services to be able to access a level of service that would assist them in continuing to live in the community. In other words, some help is better than none.

As we look at making the system better, it is important to include the ideas and perspectives of those who use the services on a day-to-day basis. Self advocates can provide insight into what is needed and how it needs to be delivered.

Working together we can build a system that meets the needs of many as they live and work in the community.