



INDEPENDENCE
INCLUSION
INNOVATION

January 19, 2012

TO: Representative Bob Bethell, Chair, and
Members of House Committee on Aging and Long Term Care

FR: Matt Fletcher, Associate Director, InterHab

RE: HB 2424 - HCBS provision of in-home attendant care services

The provision of quality supports for Kansans with intellectual and developmental disabilities is of primary concern to the membership of InterHab. Our members provide services to, or arrange for the provision of services to, Kansans with intellectual and developmental disabilities in nearly every community across Kansas. House Bill 2424 seeks to separate out, at an organizational level, the provision of in-home attendant care services from the formation of plans of care for those individuals. Our initial inquiries into the background on this bill lead us to believe that it is intended as a mechanism to address concerns present in service systems other than the community DD system.

Regardless of the intent, the scope of the bill is fairly broad and references "home and community based services programs" which would include the community DD system. We have received assurances from the Administration that they do not feel that this bill should be applicable to the community DD system. We appreciate the Administration's indication of their interpretation of this bill, as well as their support that Community Developmental Disability Organizations would continue to operate under the statutory and regulatory authority and guidance that are set forth in the Kansas Developmental Disabilities Reform Act.

We would respectfully recommend to the Committee that the bill's language be amended to reflect that services delivered as part of the HCBS MR/DD Waiver are not included in the scope of this bill's authority to affect change. Absent such clarifying language, the bill could be seen as being applicable to the community DD service system, which could cause a significant disruption to service providers who currently provide support to adults and children with developmental disabilities who rely greatly on these in-home services.

We appreciate the hard work of this Committee in reviewing serious issues that face Kansas long-term care systems, and our members are confident that the Committee will give the same thoughtful consideration to our request for clarifying amendments to HB 2424 as has been previously demonstrated time and again on important social service issues. The staff and membership of InterHab stands ready to assist the Committee regarding this issue, and would be happy to answer any questions or provide any additional information that the Committee would request.