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To: Brian Weber, Chair and
Members of the House Social Service Budget Committee

From: Carl E. Locke

Re: HB 2029

My name is Carl Locke, a retired KU faculty member from Lawrence. I have been on the Board of Trustees of Cottonwood Inc. for about 10 years and recently completed three years as its President. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

I speak in favor of HB 2029 which, if enacted into law, would allow the consumers served by Cottonwood to continue to receive the personalized, efficient attention they are accustomed to having. I have serious concerns about the future of these individuals if they must be served by corporate, for-profit organizations which would be different than they have experienced over the past many years. Kansas has a strong efficient community based service system that has been continually refined over the past 40 years.

I want to focus my comments on three key points.

- KanCare is not a good fit for the services Cottonwood provides. KanCare uses a medical model approach to its design and the services we provide are not medical. In fact, organizations like Cottonwood have worked over the years to not have consumers seen as sick but as productive members of our community.
- We have concerns regarding the substitution of corporate control over the needs and services available to individual consumers rather than the local community control we now enjoy. Cottonwood's Case Managers work closely with individuals in coordinating their services and other supports needed. The Administration has indicated in the past that our system of case management will be maintained under KanCare but the Cottonwood Board fears that these relationships will be severed with KanCare. The personal relationship that case managers have with consumers is reassuring and extremely beneficial for the individuals served by Cottonwood.
- We take pride in being a volunteer board of trustees that governs and supports the mission Cottonwood "**We help people with disabilities shape their own future**". We object to the significant funding (tax payer dollars) that is being directed to administrative costs and profit for MCOs. How can that be more cost effective to the state unless services are reduced?

Therefore, I urge your support of HB 2029

Social Services Budget
FEBRUARY 20, 2013

ATTACHMENT # 8