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Chairman Hawkins and members of the Robert G. (Bob) Bethel Joint Committee on Home and Community Based Services and KanCare Oversight:

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today on behalf of Jenian, Inc., a targeted case management agency supporting individuals, an affiliate with Johnson County Developmental Disability Supports and Wyandotte County Developmental Disability Supports.

As a parent of an adult with disabilities and an agency director, I have spoken before this committee many times. I and other colleagues have informed you of the impact KanCare has had on our individuals and families and agencies. We have discussed the delayed and incorrect reimbursements, the denials, the cuts in services, and the myriad of other problematic issues associated with this flawed program.

I would like to suggest some ways to improve the lives of our most vulnerable citizens of Kansas and maintain a consistent business model for the agencies charged with providing quality services.

1. Carve out KanCare from the Home and Community Based Services and put them back with the state. Get rid of the MCO's for this population.
2. Hire a non-partisan Inspector General that is separate from KDADS and KDHE.
3. Move the Ombudsman's office to an outside and independent agency that is available to inform individuals of their legal rights.
4. Fix the backlog of the KEE's system.
5. Fix the laborious and time consuming steps to enter a state treatment center when there is a clear crisis. Hire competent staff with ongoing professional training to understand how to work with individuals who have extreme behaviors.
6. Revisit the new policy that limits residential providers to provide maximum care to their individuals. Listen to the agencies that are providing this service and ask them how to revise the policy so that agencies can stay in business and still maintain the Final Rule.
7. Increase the pay scale for providers so they can hire competent workers and provide benefits.