

March 14, 2017

Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic
Development

Committee Members,

My name is Brad Linnenkamp and I work for the Self-Advocate Coalition of Kansas. I am also a Kansan with a disability who is concerned about the current legislation being proposed in HB2353.

This bill changes the definition of use law vendors to specifically include vendors who pay less than minimum wage to their employees. This change goes against everything we fought for and achieved when the Employment First law was passed in Kansas. It was the first law of its kind passed in the United States and SACK strongly supports Employment First and being paid a competitive wage in an integrated setting.

Endorsing subminimum wages for Kansans with intellectual and developmental disabilities should not be the future of Kansas. As currently written I cannot support this bill. DRC Kansas has an amendment to remove the offensive subminimum wage language. If this amendment is adopted I would support this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue.