

**Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of Kansas  
Testimony in Support of House Bill 2353**

**March 14, 2017**

**To: House Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development Committee  
From: Patrick Terick, Governmental Activities Director (CPRFK)**

**Ref: Testimony in Support of House Bill 2353**

Chairperson Mason and Members of the House Commerce, Labor, Economic Development Committee. I want to thank you for your willingness to allow me to provide testimony in Support of House Bill 2353 as a member of the Coalition for Opportunity, the State Use Law Committee and on behalf of the Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of Kansas (CPRFK).

The Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of Kansas (CPRFK) and its support organizations Center Industries Corporation (CIC) and Business Technology Carrier Opportunities (BTCO) are state use law vendors. All three organizations employ persons with disabilities and abled-bodied persons in an integrated employment environment. We pay commensurate wages and fringe benefits (including health insurance and a 403(b) retirement program) to all of our 351 employees.

We are supportive of the amendments and balloon amendments being put forward in HB 2353.

Those balloon amendments being: a **Qualified Vendor** and the **Definition of Disability**.

**Qualified Vendor**

b) "qualified vendor" means: (1) A not-for-profit entity incorporated in the state of Kansas that: **Has a mission to employ persons ...** Disability groups across the country, including our State placement agency, being KRS or VR, stress integrated work environments. **Primarily** implies vast majority and that is directly counter to CMS and VR directives. At CPRF and affiliates, we attempt to thread the needle by employing as many persons with disabilities as possible and still be considered integrated. An organization having a **Mission to employ people with disabilities**, accomplishes the intent.

**Definition of Disability**

g) "persons who are disabled" means any person of employable age who's **disability**, ~~by reason of whether any disability~~, physical or mental, ~~whether~~ congenital or acquired by accident, injury or disease; **is a substantial barrier to employment**. ~~Is or may be expected to be totally or partially incapacitated from engaging in a remunerative occupation.~~

The ADA and Vocational Rehabilitation definitions are similar and state that an eligible participant is one who's disability leads to a "substantial barrier to employment" vs. not able to work.

I wish to thank you again for your time Chairperson Mason and Members of the House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee for your willingness to allow me to provide testimony in Support of House Bill 2353 as a member of the Coalition for Opportunity, the State Use Law Committee and on behalf of the Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of Kansas (CPRFK).