

Proponent Testimony – Senate Bill 332  
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee  
February 9, 2018

Senator Schmidt and Committee members,

My name is Susan Jarsulic and I live in Shawnee with my husband and our adult disabled daughter Jayne. Jayne has Rett Syndrome and requires 24/7 care. She is 39 years old.

Today I would like to go on record in support of Senate Bill 332 which removes Intellectual/Developmentally Disabled Kansans from managed care for their long term care needs.

I/DD services do not fit the “medical” model used by the MCOs. My daughter isn’t a “patient.”

Please don’t assume that persons with disabilities are ok with the MCOs managing their care if they don’t appear before your committee or submit written testimony. I know of instances where the MCOs have cut services, refused to provide service, or made it so difficult to access services, families give up. When faced with fighting “the man” in addition to providing or securing care it is an overwhelming task. In addition to the time and effort needed to fight, retaliation is a major concern.

I am also a provider of day services to persons on the I/DD waiver. Dreams Work, Inc. is located in Lenexa. We totally agree with Interhab’s statement that MCO care coordination is an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy and that its purpose appears to be controlling resources rather than assisting consumers in utilizing them. The high turnover in care coordinators also creates extra workload for us. Prior to Kancare we billed one entity for every clients’ services; now we have to bill each MCO creating twice the work. We opted not to contract with one MCO because of the workload involved.

We have seen at least two residential providers in Johnson County close due to the changes brought about by Kancare; in particular, the processing of payments. How long could you stay in business if you weren’t getting paid for the services you provide?

Kansas basically took a system that was not broke and broke it. I support Senate Bill 332 to carve I/DD out of managed care and return it to the previous model that worked well for over 30 years.

Thank you.

Susan Jarsulic