



Topeka Independent Living Resource Center

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House Social Services Budget Committee

Representative Carpenter, Chair

The Topeka Independent Living Resource Center (TILRC) is a civil and human rights organization. Our mission is to advocate for justice, equality and essential services for a fully integrated and accessible society for all people with disabilities. TILRC has been providing cross-age, cross-disability advocacy and services for 39 years to people with disabilities here in Shawnee County and across the state of Kansas. Our agency has been particularly interested in and committed to assuring that people who require long term care services have access to information, services and supports that offer choices; choices that promote freedom, independent lifestyles and dignity, including the dignity of risk.

Our consumers and our agency thank Representative Carpenter for his leadership on the initial statutory increase to the Protected Income Level proposed in HB2459. We look forward to working with the committee to finish the work on this issue, by indexing the annual PIL amount to the maximum amount allowable under federal law, 300% of SSI level. This will ensure the folks who have worked to maximize their social security disability benefits and/or whose spouses have worked and left them survivor benefits will be treated as fairly as all other people using HCBS to remain in the community. **We are asking to make the HCBS protected income level increase permanent, indexed at 300% of SSI.**

Thank you for the opportunity to present our position on HB2459.

Advocacy and services provided by and for people with disabilities.