



OTTAWA
1516 DAVIS
P.O. BOX 459
OTTAWA, KS 66067
785-242-5035
Fax 785-242-2118

BURLINGTON
1415 S. 6TH ST.
BURLINGTON, KS 66839
620-364-2151
Fax 620-364-8062

Thursday February 3rd, 2022

Testimony in Opposition of SB 316

Madam Chair Sen. Carolyn McGinn

Vice Chair Sen. Elaine Bowers

Honorable Chair and Distinguished Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding SB 316. In the past 60-65 years, we have made significant progress regarding inclusion of individuals with disabilities into our communities. Historically, people who were born with disabilities were relegated to lives of seclusion and suffering. For too many years, these individuals were not afforded the opportunity to experience life to the fullest as members of their own communities. Passage of SB 316 would be a significant step backwards from the inclusive communities we have built in our state.

This bill presents an opportunity to send a clear message to Kansas. The question is, what message do you want to send? If we center discussions and legislative efforts around how we can push people out of our communities and prevent housing for those who are in need, we are telling a large portion of Kansans that we want them to return to living life in the shadows.

As someone who supports individuals with disabilities in finding adequate housing, I know too well how limited their options are in many communities in our state. There are many reasons for these limitations including limited financial resources, inability to own housing due to income restrictions, the fear landlords have to rent to individuals with disabilities, etc. Group living settings are often the only option for safe and suitable housing. Limiting this

housing option will surely increase the rate of homelessness among individuals with disabilities which will negatively impact their lives as well as many Kansas communities.

My testimony only touches on a portion of those that will be negatively impacted by the decision to pass SB 316. Please consider the risks to not only this vulnerable demographic of individuals, but many others that will also be harmed by this bill.

Rachel Neumann

Rachel Neumann
Director of Operations
rneumann@cofts.org
(785)-893-0260