

Bob Bethell KanCare Oversight Committee Testimony

Thank you for allowing me time to speak with you today. My name is Colin Olenick and I work for the Self Advocate Coalition of Kansas. We are a statewide organization that works with and for Kansans with Intellectual/Developmental disabilities. We have met virtually every other week throughout the pandemic to discuss issues we feel are important. And that is what brings me here today.

The legislative proposal to prevent the Governor from releasing an RFP and renegotiating contracts with managed care organizations is misguided. There has been little, if any, public input in this idea. Self-advocates do not believe that giving billions of dollars to companies without a bidding process is good business. The idea also appears to be political, not practical. Reviewing YouTube coverage of committee hearings will support me in this statement. There is also no guarantee that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid would accept this proposition. The recently released report from the Kansas Medicaid Inspector General even indicates that now is not the time to continue with “business as usual.”

Much of the work of many of the advocates to improve the Medicaid program would fall to the wayside if Kansas chooses to simply extend the MCO contracts as they exist.

And we may not have had to have this conversation had the Legislature expanded Medicaid when we were first given the chance. It’s not too late.

Thank you and I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.