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House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Annarose White, Kansas resident of Sumner County, who grew up in Miami County. My brother was diagnosed at the age of 19 with Type 1 Bipolar Personality Disorder. Most Kansans diagnosed with mental health disorders and disabilities do are diagnosed as an adult.

I am testifying in support of HB 2345 to establish it as an option to improve the lives of adult Kansans who have mental health diagnosis including personality disorders and other disabilities. Kansas offering a Supported Decision-Making Agreement (SDA) would have been beneficial in the early years of my brother's diagnosis and still could be a better option for Kansas families who have family members diagnosed with mental illness as adults.

During a crisis the "principal" as referred to in HB 2345 primarily would have access to have a team of people involving professionals to work with decision maker/care providers to make better care and treatment plans for the "principal". If HB2345 isn't adopted, like in the present day. Patients are released from psychiatric hospitals into communities before families/care providers have knowledge of what has been recommended for that person to be successful in their medication and therapeutic needs. If a person recently released from the hospital is still recovering from a manic or depressive episode - their frontal cortex of the brain, responsible for decision making doesn't work like a "normal person" and it is unrealistic to expect an adult diagnosed with a mental illness or who has SPMI (severe and persistent mental illness) to be expected to be the sole decision-maker regarding their health care and other needs.

The "principal" will have a higher chance of success if this decision process is shared. A (SDA) lets the individual have someone help them with their decisions, rather than making them for them. An SDA promotes individual autonomy and empowerment and helps the "principle" to live a self-directed life.

Many families in Kansas are in similar situations and would benefit from a less restrictive Supportive Decision-Making Agreement (SDA) bill. Please consider helping Kansans out by passing and putting in place HB 2345. There are 27 states and the District of Columbia that have some type of (SDA) in place, Kansans making the SDA greement is a helpful tool our state's families need to help take care of our loved ones and families in a less restrictive way..

Thank you for your support of HB 2345.

Annarose White
Sister of a brother with Type 1 Bi-polar Disorder and SPMI