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Laura Kelly, Governor

Written-Only Neutral Testimony

HB 2536 – training program for guardians for adults with cognitive impairments

House Committee on Judiciary

January 28, 2026

Chairperson Humphries and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2536 regarding a certification program for guardians of adults with cognitive impairments. My name is Andrew Brown, and I am Deputy Secretary for Programs for the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS).

House Bill 2536 would require that individuals proposed as guardians for certain adults with cognitive impairments or neurological conditions complete a training program approved by the Secretary for Aging and Disability Services prior to appointment. The Secretary would also be responsible for maintaining a list of approved training programs and promulgating necessary rules and regulations.

Under the bill, KDADS would be charged with reviewing and approving guardian training programs that meet specified training standards, maintaining and publishing a list of approved programs for use by courts and potential guardians, adopting rules and regulations to administer these new training requirements.

KDADS takes a neutral stance on HB 2536. Our focus, consistent with agency mission and statutory responsibilities, is on ensuring that implementation of the bill's requirements is feasible, administratively sound, and effective in supporting adults with cognitive impairments.

The administrative requirements placed on KDADS would expand oversight into the approval and regulation of training programs that did not formerly fall under the agency's core duties. The agency must ensure that any new training program approval and rulemaking responsibilities are adequately staffed, resourced and structured to maintain quality and accessibility of training to the public.

HB 2536 includes provisions that intersect with KDADS administrative authority and responsibilities. KDADS appreciates the intent behind the legislation to enhance guardian preparedness for serving vulnerable adults. KDADS is mindful of the need to ensure appropriate administrative mechanisms, resources, and collaboration are in place for effective implementation.

KDADS stands ready to work with the Committee and other stakeholders to address fiscal and operational considerations should this bill advance.

Respectfully,

Andrew Brown
Deputy Secretary for Programs, KDADS