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In person
February 11, 2026

TO: House Judiciary Committee
FROM: Colin Olenick, Legislative Liaison, Self-Advocate Coalition of Kansas (SACK)
RE: Proponent for HB2609

Chairperson Humphries and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Colin Olenick, and I serve as the Legislative Liaison for the Self-Advocate Coalition of Kansas, also known as SACK.

I am here today to testify in support of HB2609. This revised bill incorporates recommendations from the advisory committee of the Kansas Judicial Council. I support these revisions, as they directly address concerns previously raised by the Kansas Bankers Association and the Kansas Bar Association.

I use supported decision making (SDM) informally today for both financial and medical decisions as well as my other affairs. Two of the people I use as supporters are my personal care attendant, Shelly, and my dad.

One example where I use SDM is when we work on my ABLE account, I talk to my dad because he knows more about investments than I do. We talk about my investments and then I am able to make the decision about what I do.

This bill offers several advantages over simply using SDM informally like I do now.

1. It would make it easier for someone to put into writing what they want help with and what they don't.
2. These written SDM Agreements can be easier and less expensive for individuals to set

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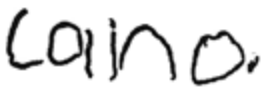
up. All it takes is for everyone to sign with either two witnesses (who also sign) or a notary.
3. It will provide protections for supporters and make it easier for them to be a supporter.
4. It also includes enhanced penalties to be a deterrent from abuse.

Please pass HB2609 to help me and others be able to use supported decision making agreements. Kansas should join the growing number of states with SDM laws.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I can answer any questions you may have.

Colin Olenick,
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