Lesa Childers, private citizen

February 11, 2026

Proponent for HB 2609 – Written-only Testimony

House Committee on Judiciary

Chair Humphries and members of the committee,

As a parent of a fifteen-year-old with a disability, I'm always looking for ways to help my child grow into a confident, independent adult. When I recently learned about Supported Decision Making, I was encouraged by the idea that my child could have more say in her own life, with trusted people helping her make important choices. This law is about giving people the chance to be heard and respected, rather than having all decisions made for them. Supported Decision Making seems like a practical, compassionate approach that could make a real difference for families like mine.

That's why I support HB 2609. This bill would give families more options and help ensure that our loved ones aren't pushed into guardianship unless it's truly necessary. I appreciate that Supported Decision Making can work alongside other legal tools, and that it's already recognized in many states. Passing this law would help educators, providers, and advocates promote self-determination for Kansans with disabilities. I hope the committee will move forward with HB 2609, so more families can benefit from this empowering approach.