Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman
900 S.W. Jackson St., Suite 1041
Topeka, KS 66612-1354

Kansas
Office of Public Advocates
Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman

Phone: (785) 296-3017
Fax: (785) 296-3916
Haely.Ordoyne@ks.gov
Ombudsman.ks.gov

Haely Ordoyne, State Ombudsman

Laura Kelly, Governor

House Committee on Judiciary
February 11th, 2026

Testimony given by:
Haely Ordoyne, SLTCO
State Long Term Care Ombudsman

Chair Representative Humphries and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share the experiences of the state Long Term Care Ombudsman program. The state long term care Ombudsman are resident directed advocates. We ensure civil and human rights and the overall well-being of people who reside in an adult care home. Ombudsmen investigate and resolve complaints, educate residents, facility staff, and the community, advocate for policy changes, regularly visit facilities to monitor conditions and be accessible to residents, and are trained to resolve problems and work to ensure that residents' wishes are at the center of any resolution.

When we serve the residents of adult care homes in our state, we often find that the guardianship system has been overused and is not appropriate for certain situations. Previously, less restrictive alternatives have not been available. The hard work of the Kansas Judicial Council has made great strides this year and this bill would add another element of alternative options to our residents. This alternative supports the individual that is capable of actively participating in their own decision-making process. Our office is often reached out to for assistance in undoing guardianships that should not have occurred or no longer serve the residents' needs. This bill would allow for a less restrictive, less costly option rather than having to undue a guardianship which often takes months or years to achieve.

For these reasons, our office stands in support of HB2609. We ask that you support this bill and provide the residents of our state with a less restrictive alternative to maintain dignity, self-determination and independence in directing the decisions that impact their lives.

Sincerely,

Haely Ordoyne

Haely Ordoyne, SLTCO
State Long Term Care Ombudsman
Office of the State LTC Ombudsman
900 SW Jackson, Suite 1041
Phone: 785-296-6017
Haely.ordoyne@ks.gov
Website: Ombudsman.ks.gov