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Written Testimony in Support of HB 2609
To the House Judiciary Committee
February 11, 2026
Craig Knutson, Executive Director
Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns

Good afternoon, Madam Chair and members of the committee. I am Craig Knutson, Executive Director of the Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns (KCDC). The Commission works to recommend changes to state programs, services, laws, and regulations that support people with disabilities living independently and working in their communities. I am writing on behalf of the commission encouraging support of HB 2609 enacting the supported decision-making agreements act.

Supported decision-making is a positive alternative to a guardianship or conservatorship for a person with limited cognitive capacity. Many people who have intellectual/developmental disabilities or who have had a stroke or have dementia or other brain disorders have some ability to control their own independent living. However, these people often need some assistance with understanding the consequences of decisions they need to make. Supported decision-making assistance provides them a better understanding of the situation and the positive and negative consequences of the person's options.

A majority of states and the District of Columbia have already passed this legislation giving their citizens with this need a positive option to enhance their ability to live on their own. It is working well in those states and the District of Columbia.

We encourage you to seriously consider passage of HB 2609.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2609.

Craig Knutson
Executive Director
Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns