KANSAS GUARDIANSHIP PROGRAM *KGP*

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Neutral Oral Testimony on HB 2536

Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

March 12, 2026

Chair Gossage and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today on behalf of the Kansas Guardianship Program.

KGP serves only a small portion of adults under guardianship in Kansas. All guardians are appointed by the courts, and many statewide are family members or non-KGP volunteers. We receive referrals only from Adult Protective Services and state hospital social workers, but we regularly assist community members by connecting them with local resources and support organizations.

Our volunteers often meet the adult prior to appointment, and KGP provides ongoing support as they build that relationship. To prevent conflicts of interest, KGP guardians do not provide personal care. Instead, they act as legal advocates and are trained to make decisions based on what the adult would choose if they were able—ensuring rights, dignity, and independence remain central.

The adults we serve have a range of conditions, not always cognitive or neurological. Likewise, not all adults with such conditions require guardianship. Many of our volunteers come from professional backgrounds in health care or social services and already possess extensive training in areas addressed by HB 2536. When matching a volunteer to an adult, we intentionally consider diagnosis, living situation, and care needs.

KGP is currently updating our training materials to reflect recent statutory changes in HB 2359, and we continue to encourage volunteers to seek training from organizations specializing in specific diagnoses.

While we support the intent of HB 2536, we believe Kansas would benefit from a more comprehensive and publicly accessible resource for guardians—one developed with input from multiple stakeholders and updated regularly.

Thank you for the opportunity to share what KGP does and for your attention to the training needs of guardians across Kansas.

Nancy Mayberry

Executive Director