



Martha Gabehart, Executive Director

Laura Kelly., Governor

Testimony in Opposition of SB 256
By Martha Gabehart, Executive Director
Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns
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Senate Committee on Government Efficiency

Thank you, Chairperson Erickson and committee members for this opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns (KCDC) in opposition of SB 256. I am Martha Gabehart, Executive Director of the Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns. The commission supports protection of rights for all people with disabilities.

KCDC opposes SB 256 because, if reporting is not done correctly, state employees with disabilities and those who have family members with disabilities could be revealed to people who do not have a need to know they have a disability or an association with someone who has a disability. That is a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Kansas Act Against Discrimination and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Also, this would adversely affect the State of Kansas Employment First policy. Last year the legislature passed the Disability Hiring Preference to give job applicants with disabilities more opportunities to interview for State jobs and become employed. This makes the State of Kansas a model employer of people with disabilities. By creating a policy that would, if not implemented correctly, violate the rights of employees with disabilities, we would no longer be considered a model employer.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my written testimony in opposition of SB 256.