

March 6, 2025

## TESTIMONY OF BRIDGET DUPIN

Opponent – Senate Bill 256

To: Senate Government Efficiency Committee

Chairperson Erickson, Members of the Committee,

My name is Bridget Dupin,

I am writing regarding the Back to Work Act. Thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony about the benefits of working from home.

Since working from home I have been thriving, I am more productive, happy, and healthier, than I ever have been. As someone who is on the Autism spectrum, having control over the environment you are in, yields great benefits in terms of managing sensory overload, and independence in the work itself. This is the first job I have felt fully successful at. I don't want to have to leave a role I finally fit well with because we have to return to the office. At the end of the day instead of feeling overwhelmed, and burnt out, I still have the energy to take on other tasks and look forward to helping more people the next. During the work day, my numbers exceed the average quota. I am calm and able to take care of our work proactively and timely. Going back to an office setting would negatively impact these numbers, and thus, negatively impact many children and families getting the assistance that they need. I want to be the best I can be for all Kansan families that need our help.

I could write in length about how working from home benefits me, but let's discuss how it benefits the very people the Department of Children and Families strives to serve. Because of the flexibility of working from home, and thus not having to spend hours each week in transportation to and from the office, I have been able to become foster care and adoptive certified.

Kansas is greatly in need of foster parents, children are greatly in need of a safe place. What more testament or proof regarding working from home for the Department of Children and Families could someone need than this, that because I work from home I am able to provide a safe, stable, loving environment for children that desperately need it. As someone whose title is "Protection Specialist", please let me continue to be able to answer that call and protect our children from where I am at. So that when a worker knocks on my door with a child, I am there to open it.

Sincerely,

Bridget Dupin

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