



## Senate Committee on Government Efficiency

March 13th, 2025

### Proponent of SB281

Chairwoman Erickson and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities (KCDD), we appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB281. KCDD works to support Kansans of all ages with intellectual and developed disabilities (I/DD), family members and caregivers to ensure they have the opportunity to make choices about their participation in society and their quality of life. Our mission is to empower individuals with intellectual and developed disabilities (I/DD) and their families to lead systems change, build capacity, and advocate for inclusive, integrated, and accessible communities where everyone belongs and thrives.

**This important legislation advances financial empowerment and independence for individuals with disabilities through the Kansas ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) savings account grant incentive program.**

KCDD has been a strong advocate for expanding access to financial resources that promote independence and economic stability for Kansans with disabilities. Through our ongoing work with the Kansas State Treasurer's Office and the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS), we have supported outreach and education efforts, including [the ABLE Roadshow grant](#) and a program for people with disabilities in foster care, designed to increase awareness and utilization of ABLE accounts across the state. This grant has played a crucial role in ensuring that individuals with disabilities, their families, and service providers understand the benefits of ABLE accounts, which allow people with disabilities to save for their futures without jeopardizing their eligibility for essential benefits such as Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). As a result of this grant and educational campaign, the number of ABLE account holders in Kansas has increased by 25% with approximately 8 million dollars assets under management.

SB 281 takes a critical step forward by establishing a dedicated incentive program to encourage more eligible individuals and families to open ABLE accounts. Financial literacy and savings opportunities are often limited for individuals with disabilities due to restrictive asset limits in public benefit programs. This bill helps level the playing field by providing a structured grant incentive that will enable more Kansans with disabilities to achieve financial security and pursue their goals.

We commend the Kansas State Treasurer's Office for its leadership in administering the ABLE program and for its commitment to expanding financial opportunities for individuals with disabilities. By enacting SB 281, Kansas will strengthen its commitment to financial inclusion and

self-determination for people with disabilities, empowering them to build savings, plan for their futures, and reduce reliance on public benefits.

The Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities urges the committee to advance SB281 and continue supporting initiatives that promote economic empowerment and independence for Kansans with disabilities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sara Hart Weir  
Executive Director  
Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities (KCDD)  
sara@kcdd.org