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March 10, 2025
Senate Judiciary Committee
Glenda DuBoise, AARP Kansas
Proponent written testimony
HB 2359

Chair Warren and members of the committee,

My name is Glenda DuBoise, state director for AARP Kansas. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 2359.

AARP is the largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization representing the interests of Americans age 50-plus and their families. We have approximately 38 million members nationwide. In Kansas, AARP has more than 278,00 members, each of whom is affected by the state's tax policies and program decisions. AARP strongly believes that all individuals have the right to be self-reliant and live with dignity in retirement.

For nearly a decade, AARP has been on the forefront of guardianship reform advocacy and will continue to fight to protect vulnerable older adults who rely on legal guardians and others to help them make vital decisions.

Today, we stand in support of HB 2359. As written, the bill enacts the Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act (UAGAPPJA) and the Kansas Uniform Guardianship Conservatorship and other Protective Arrangements Act.

Kansas guardianship laws and standards should be updated, and strengthened, to put the rights of the Kansas seniors first as opposed to relying on a one-size-fits-all, cookie-cutter approach.

Adult guardianship is a complex system where someone is named by a state court to care for the well-being, and possibly manage the finances, of another person who has been deemed unable to care for him- or herself. These cases can be difficult and can involve complicated family dynamics.



AARP believes this bill will improve adult guardianships in Kansas. To date, 46 states have already adopted the UAGAPPJA. Passage of the bill will mean Kansas residents who have guardianship of their family members, can easily transfer the guardianship to Kansas without having to file a whole separate proceeding and prove the need for guardianship.

Additionally, AARP believes individuals subject to guardianships/conservatorships are afforded due process of the law. This bill does that in numerous ways, including (but not limited to):

- Requiring the participation of the respondent to the petition (person who is to be protected) at hearings.
- Creating a formal grievance process by which a person under guardianship or conservatorship could ask the court to review the guardianship or conservatorship or a decision of the guardian/conservator.
- Appointing court liaisons to investigate the allegations in the petition.
- Ensuring respondents are represented by an attorney during the initial proceedings.
- Allowing for less restrictive protective arrangements to be ordered in lieu of a full guardianship or conservatorship when appropriate.

AARP Kansas asks for your support of HB 2359 and appreciates your consideration.
Kind regards,

Glenda DuBoise
State Director, AARP Kansas

