



EQUALITY ♦ LAW ♦ JUSTICE

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March 6, 2025

**Senate Committee on Public Health & Welfare
Proponent Testimony for HB2307**

Chair Gossage and members of the committee:

My name is Mike Burgess. I am the Director of Policy & Outreach at the Disability Rights Center of Kansas (DRC). DRC is a public interest legal advocacy organization that is part of a national network of federally mandated organizations empowered to advocate for Kansans with disabilities. DRC is officially designated by the State of Kansas as Kansas' protection and advocacy system. DRC is a private, 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, organizationally independent of state government and whose focus is the protection and enhancement of the rights of Kansans with disabilities.

DRC is pleased to share our support for HB2307. This bill simply changes a "may" to a "shall" and transfer the prenatally and postnatally diagnosed conditions awareness programs from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD Council).

Families go through a lot when they receive a diagnosis either prenatally or postnatally. Thankfully there are a number of resources to help them and their son or daughter throughout their entire life.

I think it will be a good fit to transfer this to the DD Council, where this much needed program can be fully implemented and make a difference for these parents.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for HB2307. I would be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.