



Community
Developmental
Disabilities
Organization

A DIVISION OF JOHNSON COUNTY DEVELOPMENTAL SUPPORTS
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March 28, 2011

To: Aging and Long-Term Care Committee
Social Services Budget Committee

From: Maury L. Thompson, Executive Director
Johnson County Developmental Supports (JCDS)

RE: Senate Bill 210 – Provider Assessment

Chairmen Bethell and Crum, and members of the Committees, I appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony on behalf of providers of Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) for the developmentally disabled (DD) in Johnson, Miami and Wyandotte Counties.

JCDS, as the Community Developmental Disabilities Organization, contracts with a network of more than 350 providers of DD services in Johnson County, and works closely with the Wyandotte County Developmental Disabilities Organization and other DD providers in Miami and Wyandotte Counties. This coalition of organizations has made SB 210 a priority in their legislative agenda.

As SB 210 is written, and when implemented, it will benefit persons receiving services in our area, as well as those who provide those services. The enhanced HCBS waiver rates made possible by this provider assessment will assist providers in recruiting and retaining a high quality workforce – the most important component in ensuring that those we serve increase their independence and productivity, and their integration and inclusion into their communities.

Over the last many years, providers have seen their reimbursement rates fail to keep pace with even the most conservative of inflationary indices. Revenue from a provider assessment would allow providers to be better equipped to meet their increasing costs in terms of utilities, food, fuel, and their health and worker's compensation insurance costs. This in turn builds a stable, prepared, and ready network of providers, equipped to provide critically important services to those who most need our help.

Providers in Johnson, Miami and Wyandotte Counties urge your support of SB 210 without amendment.

HOUSE AGING & LTC
DATE: 3/28/11
ATTACHMENT #4