



---

## Topeka Independent Living Resource Center

785-233-4572 V/TTY • FAX 785-233-1561 • TOLL FREE 1-800-443-2207  
501 SW Jackson Street • Suite 100 • Topeka, KS 66603-3300

---

March 12, 2012

To: Representative Rhoades and Members of the House Appropriations Committee

From: Kim Dietrich, Independent Living Advocate

RE: HB 2644

Topeka Independent Living Resource Center, Inc. (TILRC) is a human and civil rights organization with a mission to advocate for justice, equality and essential services for a fully integrated and accessible society for all people with disabilities. All materials published by our agency are written in People First language.

We support changing the terminology in the statutes from the term mental retardation to intellectual disability. If the terminology were changed, legislation and laws in the State of Kansas would be written using People First language. People with intellectual disabilities need to be known as people, and not labeled by disability. Using People First language promotes dignity and respect and empowers people with intellectual disabilities. People with intellectual disabilities should be treated the same as other people. They should not be seen as different or incapable.

Thank you for allowing me to provide written testimony. Please let me know if you have any questions.

***Advocacy and services provided by and for people with disabilities.***