

**Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of Kansas
Testimony in Support of House Bill 2353**

April 2017

**To: Senate Ways and Means Committee
From: Patrick Terick, Governmental Activities Director (CPRFK)**

Ref: Testimony in Support of House Bill 2353

Chairperson McGinn and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, I want to thank you for your willingness to allow me to provide testimony in Support of House Bill 2353 as a member of the Coalition for Opportunity, the State Use Law Committee and on behalf of the Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of Kansas (CPRFK).

The Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of Kansas (CPRFK) and its support organizations Center Industries Corporation (CIC) and Business Technology Carrier Opportunities (BTCO) are state use law vendors. All three organizations employ persons with disabilities and abled-bodied persons in an integrated employment environment. We pay commensurate wages and fringe benefits (including health insurance and a 403(b) retirement program) to all of our 351 employees.

We are supportive of the amendments being put forward in HB 2353.

Those amendments being: a **Qualified Vendor** and the **Definition of Disability**.

Qualified Vendor

{Employs} *persons who are blind or disabled and who reside in Kansas. Persons who are employed by a third-party entity other than the vendor are not employed by the vendor for purposes of this section; (2)(B) (2) does business primarily in Kansas or substantially all of its production in Kansas; . Primarily implies vast majority and that is directly counter to CMS and VR directives. At CPRF and affiliates, we attempt to thread the needle by employing as many persons with disabilities as possible and still be considered integrated. An organization that **{Employs}** *persons who are blind or disabled*, accomplishes the intent.*

Definition of Disability

g) "persons who are disabled" means any person of employable age **whose disability, by reason of whether any disability, physical or mental, whether congenital or acquired by accident, injury or disease; is a substantial barrier to employment. Is or may be expected to be totally or partially incapacitated from engaging in a remunerative occupation.**

The ADA and Vocational Rehabilitation definitions are similar and state that an eligible participant is one whose disability leads to a "substantial barrier to employment" vs. not able to work.

I wish to thank you again for your time Chairperson McGinn and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee for your willingness to allow me to provide testimony in Support of House Bill 2353 as a member of the Coalition for Opportunity, the State Use Law Committee and on behalf of the Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of Kansas (CPRFK).