



An independent voice for
those served by KanCare.

Barb Conant / 785 383-4272
baconant@hotmail.com

Sean Gatewood / 785 220-5355
seangatewood@outlook.com

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Sen. Hilderbrand and members of the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to SB 501.

At a time when thousands of Kansans are trying to get themselves and their families back on their feet after the COVID pandemic, SB 501 erects arbitrary barriers for Kansans who rely on KanCare for medical care and food assistance. These are Kansans who are trying to make ends meet on limited incomes, who have chronic illnesses and/or who have a disability. This bill would require them to jump additional administrative hurdles including unnecessary, confusing, and burdensome paperwork with harsh punishments if they make a misstep. SB 501 sets up people to fail.

People apply for assistance when they need help, often at times of crisis. Instead of streamlining the process, the bill lengthens the eligibility process and forces people to navigate, often without help, an overly complicated application process. It would punish people with already limited financial resources, making it even harder for them to receive the food and medical assistance they not only need but are eligible to receive.

This bill also creates additional administrative burdens for our State social service agencies which are already stretched thin, both in terms of budget and staff. It ignores the quality control measures that are in place, requiring costly and unnecessary administrative burdens on the data sharing infrastructure between state agencies. This has the potential of resurrecting the eligibility application backlog the State has worked so hard to resolve. SB 501 promotes inefficiencies and would be costly to Kansas taxpayers.

SB 501 is punitive, inefficient, burdensome, unnecessary. It is simply bad policy. Vote no on SB 501.

Sean Gatewood

KanCare Advocates Network