



Proponent for HB2345 House Judiciary Committee

Hello, my name is Colin Olenick, and I am the Legislative Liaison for the Self Advocate Coalition of Kansas. I am here today to testify in support of HB2345.

I use supported decision making (SDM) informally today for both financial and medical decisions as well as my other affairs. Two of the people I use as supporters are my personal care attendant, Shelly, and my dad.

One example where I use SDM is when we work on my ABLÉ account, I talk to my dad because he knows more about investments than I do. We talk about what my investments and then I am able to make the decision about what I do.

This bill offers several advantages over simply using SDM informally like I do now.

1. It would make it easier for someone to put into writing what they want help with and what they don't.
2. These written SDM Agreements can be easier and less expensive for individuals to set up. All it takes is for everyone to sign with either two witnesses (who also sign) or a notary.
3. It will provide protections for supporters and make it easier for them to be a supporter.
4. It also includes enhanced penalties to be a deterrent from abuse.

Please pass HB2345 to help me and others be able to use supported decision making agreements. Kansas should join the growing number of states with SDM laws.

Thank you and I can answer any questions you may have.