



Self Advocate Coalition of Kansas

Promoting Empowerment
and Independence

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Madam Chair,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you and the committee today. My name is Kathy Lobb, and I work for the Self Advocate Coalition of Kansas, otherwise known as SACK. SACK is a statewide advocacy group made up of adults with developmental disabilities, the majority of whom receive services through the Kansas Developmental Disabilities Service System. SACK encourages and teaches people to speak up for themselves and to obtain the highest possible level of independence. Our mission is to promote empowerment and independence for adults with developmental disabilities.

I am a person with an intellectual disability.

I am not mentally retarded, and I don't think those words should ever be used to describe me or anyone else with an intellectual or developmental disability. I do not like those words, and I don't know anyone else who likes for the state to use those words. We are people, and we need to be treated with respect just like everyone else. I have a job, I own my house, I am part of my community, and I pay taxes just like everyone else.

It is time for the state to recognize that I am a person first, and change the laws to show that while I may have a disability and it is a part of my life, it does not define who I am.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Kathy Lobb