



March 6, 2017

Senate Ways and Means Committee
Chairwoman Caryolyn McGinn
and Members of the Committee

Testimony in Support of a Rate Increase for Home and Community Based Services – SB 173
(written only)

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Kansas Association of Area Agencies on Aging & Disabilities (k4ad)

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB 173. The Kansas Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities (k4ad) represents the eleven Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs). The eleven AAAs cover all 105 Kansas counties.

The AAAs are charged by the federal Older Americans Act to serve as the public advocate for the development or enhancement of comprehensive and coordinated community based systems or services in our planning areas, with a focus on seniors.

For years, the AAAs served as the “single point of entry” for community based services for seniors. More recently, the AAAs serve as the KDADS’s contractor for the Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs). As a result, we have conducted Medicaid functional assessments, and reassessments, for individuals who are applying for, or receiving, home and community based services under the Frail Elderly waiver, Physical Disability waiver and Traumatic Brain Injury waiver, in addition to nursing facility admissions and the Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly. The AAAs have conducted well over 100,000 functional assessments in the past four years.

Our mission is to support, coordinate and maintain community based services. It’s what we do.

For 30+ years, Kansas has been a leader in developing, maintaining and providing home and community based services. Our history is long and rich. Access, Cost, Quality of Life and Quality of Care are the four components of a well-structured overarching system that provides home and community based services.

While some may suggest that Kansas’ home and community based services and systems operate as “silos,” I assert just the opposite. During the 30+ years, Kansas developed and maintained networks. These networks have been interconnected for years and are designed to provide flexibility, strength and positive outcomes to each of the seven targeted populations, based on the four components noted above.

Home and community based services in Kansas have operated effectively and efficiently for years. To maintain these valuable networks, a rate increase is necessary.

We are pleased to SB 173.