

Senate Committee on Commerce
March 7, 2019
Testimony in Favor of HB 2174
Natalie Bright

Chair Lynn and Honorable Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you on behalf of the Coalition for Opportunity, a group comprised of organizations who directly employ persons with disabilities and participate in the Kansas State Use Law program. The members of the Coalition for Opportunity stand in support of HB 2174, which extends the sunset date for the State Use Law Committee within the Department of Administration for five years. There is no fiscal note associated with the bill.

In 2004, several Kansas SUL Vendors (those who employ blind and disabled Kansans) joined together to form the Coalition for Opportunity (Coalition). Members of the Coalition committed themselves to updating and improving the existing SUL program for both vendors and required purchasers. In 2005, the Coalition worked with the Kansas Legislature to modernize the law as well as create a 9-member SUL advisory oversight committee comprised of legislators (Representative Les Mason and Senator Oletha Faust-Goudea), purchasers, vendors and a consumer representative. The SUL committee was created to assist and advise the Director of Purchasing with overseeing and administering the SUL program. It is also the forum where parties involved with the SUL program can work out issues and find solutions when an issue does arise. Specifically, the SUL Committee:

- Assists Director of Purchasing with reviewing products and services eligible for inclusion in the SUL catalog;
- Assures SUL items included in the catalog are needed and competitively priced;
- Advises on rules and regs to assure fair and effective implementation of the SUL program;
- Advises Director of Purchasing with waiver requests product delivery difficulties or other complaints; and
- Assist SUL vendors in identifying and improving marketing efforts of SUL products and services as well as identify new products and services for the SUL program.

Since updating the law in 2005 and creating the oversight of the SUL Committee, the SUL program has seen steady level of sales as well as improved communications between required state purchasers and SUL vendors. The members of the Coalition for Opportunity believe renewing the SUL Committee is good public policy. Therefore, on behalf of the members of the Coalition for Opportunity, I respectfully request your support of HB 2174 and renew the SUL Committee for another 5 years. I will stand for questions.