

Thank you for the chance to discuss some important issues before the 2023-24 Legislative session begins. My name is Colin Olenick and I am the Legislative Liaison for the Self Advocate Coalition of Kansas. I would like to talk about three issues.

First, SACK urges you to work towards passage of a Supported Decision Making bill that would support hundreds, if not thousands, of Kansans in their everyday life. We all use some sort of supported decision making – as legislators you fully understand this as you seek Legislative Audits and Financial reviews to guide your decision-making. Kansans with disabilities simply want the same choice.

Second, Kathy's Bill, which provides a preference for hiring people with disabilities in government needs to cross the finish line. This has been an Executive Order for years but needs the full statutory support Kathy's Bill would provide. We hope that you will work with us to see this happen.

Finally, SACK would request that you support any increase in state funding for the Self Advocate Coalition of Kansas. Our funding has remained the same for over 20 years yet our scope of work for the state has grown tremendously. We recently received a decrease in funding from one of our funders and we are hopeful that this can be offset by an increase in funding from KDADS.

Self advocates are invested in the state of Kansas and we just ask that you invest in the self-advocates to support their success in life.