



INDEPENDENCE  
INCLUSION  
INNOVATION

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February 23, 2021

TO: Representative Will Carpenter and  
Members of the House Social Services Budget Committee

FR: Matt Fletcher, Executive Director, InterHab

RE: Support for HB 2249

Chairman Carpenter, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to share our support for House Bill 2249, which will cement in place the existing increase in the protected income limit (PIL) for persons who receive HCBS services. We applaud the efforts of this committee during the previous two legislative sessions to provide for an increase in PIL for HCBS waiver populations via budget provisos. Your work in this regard has improved the lives of many Kansans with disabilities.

Due to your efforts, the protected income limit has been set at 150% of federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for HCBS waiver recipients for the past couple of years. This increase has proven to be very helpful to individuals who must adhere to strict income guidelines in order to remain eligible for the services that help keep them in the community. For a number of Kansans with disabilities, this change has meant being able to enjoy a bit more of the wages they earn. It has also provided greater peace of mind for persons served as well as their families. For HCBS service providers, it has helped reduce burdensome tracking requirements associated with income eligibility.

We join the calls of other stakeholders for an eventual increase of PIL to 300% of SSI. We hope this committee will continue to provide leadership in further examination of PIL in this regard. Still, we believe that codifying the recent increase in PIL is very important in ensuring that recent progress is not lost. We would urge that this committee pursue favorable consideration of HB 2249.

Thank you, again, for this committee's work to increase the Protected Income Limit for HCBS waiver populations.