

TO: Representative Will Carpenter, Chair and Members of the Committee

From: Ron Fugate, parent, Overland Park

RE: Special Committee on Targeted Case Management

Representative Carpenter and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on the importance of the Targeted Case Management system in Kansas. This system is not just a service but a lifeline for us. Our TCM quarterback leads the disability services team that supports our son. He knows the playbook, helping us navigate a complex and often confusing system. This disability services system demands the professionalism and skills of our TCM.

We chose our TCM. I repeat. We chose our TCM. Did we have other choices? Absolutely. We chose our TCM because he is at Lakemary Center. We want our son's services coordinated under one roof by a quarterback leading the service provider team. We want a TCM readily available when our son needs him. No one understands our son's needs and issues better than our TCM. He's been with our son for a decade, forming a bond beyond professional duty.

The proposed changes to the TCM structure are indefensible.

Should we ask our service provider teams to divest themselves of their quarterbacks? Or send our prized quarterbacks to another team?

Either of these options systematically disrupts the TCM service delivery system... creating severe challenges for the state... service providers...and TCMs. The consequences of these changes would be disastrous.

Ultimately, our sons and daughters bear the brunt of this senseless strategy. Look at my son. Look at the parents and guardians in this room. We know you get it because you are hold this hearing, which we sincerely appreciate.

President Dwight Eisenhower once said, "Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil, and you're a thousand miles from the cornfield."

Here's a message for the bureaucrats a thousand miles from Kansas. To paraphrase Eisenhower, "Put down your pencils and come sit with us awhile. We want to tell you how the cow ate the cabbage. If you are unfamiliar with the term, it's an old Southern saying. It means telling someone the unvarnished truth, even if they would rather not hear it. Here's the truth: Our TCM system works without conflict of interest.