

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

FROM: Cassandra Lofing, Big Lakes Case Management Director

DATE: September 17, 2024

RE: TCM Conflict of Interest

My name is Cassandra Lofing, I am the Case Management Director of Big Lakes Developmental Center. Big Lakes provides services in Riley, Geary, Pottawatomie and Clay counties. Targeted Case Management (TCM) is a vital part of providing services for Kansans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

As a case manager, we help coordinate services, provide resources, and improve accessibility of services for the individuals that we support. Each year case managers assist individuals and their families with KanCare renewals to ensure they remain eligible for Medicaid and continue to have access to HCBS services. If individuals did not have that assistance from their case managers, most individuals would become ineligible for HCBS services, which is essential for their health, safety and welfare. Case managers are the backbone of ensuring clients are supported in their preferred lifestyles.

KDADS proposed plan that changes who can provide case management services, would have a drastic affect my professional and personal life, as well as the six case managers I currently supervise. I have built my career goals in life around working as a case manager to support individuals with IDD in Kansas. I have a passion for helping others and this is the perfect role for me to support them. I would be forced out of a career that I love and deeply care about. Not being able to be a case manager at Big Lakes would be devastating as I have built deep connections with not only those that we serve and their families but also those that are my colleagues.

Thank you, members of the committee, for your previous support for Kansans with IDD. I hope that you will take time to listen to all the concerns presented to you and how the policy changes proposed by KDADS could adversely affect the lives of individuals with IDD, families, providers and case managers across Kansas.