

Kansas Department of

Social and Rehabilitation Services

Gary Daniels, Acting Secretary

Senate Ways and Means Committee

March 2, 2005

Senate Bill 218 - Transfer of Moneys

Division of Health Care Policy

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Chairperson Umbarger and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding SB 218, which provides for the transfer of moneys to support the movement of individuals from nursing facilities to home and community-based services.

By proviso, the 2003 Legislature authorized SRS and the Kansas Department on Aging (KDOA) to develop and implement a system allowing for the transfer of funds for 75 individuals residing in nursing facilities to community-based services during SFY 2004. The 2004 Legislature renewed the authorization giving an additional 75 individuals the opportunity to choose to move out of a nursing facility with the money being used to provide community-based services.

The 2004 Legislature continued this authorization by a proviso in the appropriations bill. Beginning July 1, 2004, SRS and KDOA continued the process of identifying individuals on the waiting list for the Physical Disability (PD) and Frail Elderly (FE) waivers who were residing in nursing facilities. For FY 2005, because the FE waiver does not have a waiting list, the entire allotment of 75 has been made available to persons with physical disabilities seeking to move from nursing facilities to the PD waiver. When an individual makes the decision to move from the nursing facility, and the necessary arrangements are made, the amount of funding that had supported the person at the nursing facility is then identified. Twice a year, based on amounts certified by the director of the budget, funding is then transferred from the nursing facility budget to the appropriate waiver budget. Thus far this fiscal year, about 50 individuals have received transfers from nursing facilities to waiver services. The Centers for Independent Living (CIL) and Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) continue to assist individuals who choose to move from the nursing facility setting as housing and transportation issues are resolved.

SRS supports efforts for individuals to become self-sufficient while remaining in their home communities. Research shows that individuals lead more productive lives when allowed to interact with community members and receive services in their own homes or in community settings. This bill would allow SRS and DOA to continue providing opportunities for other Kansans living in nursing facilities to reestablish connections in their own communities, thus affirming as a matter of state policy the opportunity for individuals to choose community-based services.