

Kansas Department of

# **Social and Rehabilitation Services**

Gary Daniels, Secretary

**Senate Ways and Means Committee**

February 15, 2006

**SB 502**

**Health Care Policy**

Gary Daniels, Secretary

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**SB 502**

Chairperson Umbarger and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to present written testimony regarding Senate Bill 502 with proposed amendments. SB 502 establishes a solid set of guiding principles from which state agencies and advocates may work. SB 502 directs that a coordinated system for long-term care services be established. This is to be done through the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS), the Department on Aging (KDOA), the Department of Administration, and the Health Policy Authority. The goal is the development of a comprehensive integrated long-term care system. SRS supports the coordinated effort of an initiative to assure that there are a variety of services available to Kansans who are elderly or have disabilities.

SB 502 makes several points that are necessary in providing services to individuals who are aging or have disabilities. SRS supports the following directives in SB 502:

- Long-term care services shall stress individual choice, autonomy, self-determination and privacy;
- The maximum use of informal caregivers;
- Education of consumers and their families regarding the variety of services available and the settings in which those services may be provided;
- Services to elderly and disabled individuals will be provided in the least costly and confining setting and meet the needs of the individual; and
- The system should include accountability and service flexibility, and Stakeholder involvement.

As stated, SRS supports the concept of a comprehensive integrated long-term care system.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this information to you today.