

Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services
Gary Daniels, Secretary

Senate Ways and Means Committee
February 15, 2006

SB 490 with Amendments from SB 502

Chairperson Umbarger and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to present testimony regarding Senate Bill 490 with proposed amendments. I am Gary Daniels, Secretary for the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. Our understanding is that an agreement between AARP and the Big Tent Coalition has been reached to allow for some provisions of SB 502 to go into SB 490, thus establishing a solid set of guiding principles from which state agencies and advocates may work. SB 490 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.

With the prospective amendments, SB 490 makes several points that are necessary in providing services to individuals who are aging or have disabilities. SRS supports the following directives in SB 490:

- 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. If the amendments from SB 502 are included, SB 490 provides directives to agencies to continue to work together to provide a strong, coordinated system for Kansans.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this information to you today. I will be happy to stand for questions.