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Kansas Action for Children
Verbal Testimony on the KDADS Budget
House Social Services Budget Committee

Chairperson Buehler and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the budget for the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS). As the Committee deliberates the budget for KDADS, we encourage members to **fund the agency's enhancement request for \$3.0 million from the SGF to prevent the need for a waiting list for the Technology Assisted (TA) waiver.**

The TA waiver provides services to children from birth to 21 who require the use of life-sustaining technology such as a ventilator, tracheostomy, or feeding tube. The health challenges these children face require a level of care that, without waiver services, would require they live in an institution. The TA waiver gives them the chance to live at home with their family, improving their quality of life and promoting independence.

The number of eligible participants on the TA waiver has increased by approximately 11% over the past year. Adding additional funds will ensure that children can safely remain in their home. Additionally, because Medicaid 1915(c) waiver costs are an average of 62% less than institutional costs, the investment will result in savings down the road.

We understand the Legislature's desire to minimize expenditures and identify cuts in the state budget this year. Yet, we believe the best investments of state resources are those made on behalf of children and families. For these reasons, we ask that you prioritize the needs of the youngest Kansans during your budget deliberations, even if it requires additional funding. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me at megan@kac.org.

About Kansas Action for Children

Kansas Action for Children is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to make Kansas a place where every child has the opportunity to grow up healthy and thrive. We work across the political spectrum to improve the lives of Kansas children through bipartisan advocacy, partnership, and information-sharing on key issues, including early learning and education, health, and economic security for families.