

It is time to take ACTION NOW!!!!

We Have A Hearing on a Top Priority!!

This Wednesday morning the House Appropriations Committee will be having a hearing on HB 2205 which could eliminate the Client Obligation for people receiving HCBS or services through the PACE program. This could make a huge difference for individuals to not have to pay a client obligation. They would be able to keep all of their monthly income which would give them more money to pay bills and buy what they need each month. They would also be spending the money in their communities. Below are some talking points about the issue. We need everyone to call or email the members of the House Appropriations Committee also pasted below, to tell them to support House Bill 2205 to eliminate the client obligation. Please email and call today and tomorrow.

KS House Appropriations Committee members

Representative Troy Waymaster, Chair, Bunker Hill, district 109, 785-296-7672,
troy.waymaster@house.ks.gov

Representative Kyle Hoffman, Vice Chair, Coldwater, district 116, 785-296-7643,
kyle.hoffman@house.ks.gov

Representative Kathy Wolfe Moore, Ranking Minority, Kansas City, district 36, 785-296-0424,
kathy.wolfemoore@house.ks.gov

Representative John Alcala, Topeka, district 57, 785-296-7371, john.alcala@house.ks.gov

Representative Barbara Ballard, Lawrence, district 44, 785-296-7697,
barbara.ballard@house.ks.gov

Representative Tom Burroughs, Kansas City, district 33, 785-296-8153,
tom.burroughs@house.ks.gov

Representative Sydney Carlin, Manhattan, district 66, 785-296-7657,
sydney.carlin@house.ks.gov

Representative Will Carpenter, El Dorado, district 75, 785-296-7660,
Will.Carpenter@house.ks.gov

Representative J. R. Claeys, Salina, district 69, 785-296-7670, jrclaeys@house.ks.gov

Representative Susan Concannon, Beloit, district 107, 785-296-7644,
susan.concannon@house.ks.gov

Representative Willie Dove, Bonner Springs, district 38, 785-296-7677,
willie.dove@house.ks.gov

Representative Shannon Francis, Liberal, district 125, 785-296-7466,
shannon.francis@house.ks.gov

Representative Henry Helgerson, Eastborough, district 83, 785-296-
7668,henry.helgerson@house.ks.gov

Representative Steven Johnson, Assaria, district 108, 785-296-7696,
steven.johnson@house.ks.gov

Representative Brenda Landwehr, Wichita, district 105, 785-296-7488,
brenda.landwehr@house.ks.gov

Representative Stephen Owens, Hesston, district 74, 785-296-7500,
Stephen.Owens@house.ks.gov

Representative Brett Parker, Overland Park, district 29, 785-296-5413,
Brett.Parker@house.ks.gov

Representative Richard Proehl, Parsons, district 7, 785-296-7639, richard.proehl@house.ks.gov

Representative Ken Rahjes, Agra, district 110, 785-296-7463, ken.rahjes@house.ks.gov

Representative Bradley Ralph, Dodge City, district 119, 785-296-7501,
Brad.Ralph@house.ks.gov

Representative William Sutton, Gardner, district 43, 785-296-7676, bill.sutton@house.ks.gov

Representative Sean Tarwater, Stilwell, district 27, 785-296-7685, Sean.Tarwater@house.ks.gov

Representative Kristey Williams, Augusta, district 77, 785-296-3971,
kristey.williams@house.ks.gov

HB2205 Talking Points:

This bill gives statutory authority to KDHE to set the monthly client obligation income standard for persons receiving HCBS waiver services or the Program for All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) at an amount that eliminates the person's obligation.

We are asking the legislature to appropriate funding to allow Kansas to set the client obligation at 300% of Social Security income, or \$2,250/month. This amount is equal to the maximum allowed under federal law. A person with an income higher than 300% is not eligible for HCBS waiver services.

Kansas policy currently sets the personal income level at \$747/month. Any income over that amount must be collected by providers.

Retirees, single parents and Kansans receiving Social Security Disability payments are hit hard by the personal income level of \$747. This amount is simply inadequate to pay for the basic costs of living -- housing, utilities, transportation, hygiene and medical supplies and food.

A static amount will not keep pace with cost of living increases.

Kansans should be able to keep the money they have earned.

HB 2205:

- Eliminates burdensome red tape for everyone from the State, to the MCOs, to providers and consumers. It streamlines a system that is expensive to maintain and lacks case management services to help consumers manage the paperwork.
- Consistent with federal law
- Follows the lead of 25 other states
- 25 states set their protected income level at the maximum 300% of SSI (\$2,250)
- 1 at 250% (\$1,875)
- 9 at 100% of Federal Poverty Level (\$1,005)
- 7 at 100% of SSI (\$750)
- 5 states have no client obligation
- Does not add additional services to the waivers or change eligibility requirements
- Is financially prudent. All persons struggling to maintain independence are financially and functionally eligible for nursing home placement. Nursing homes are at least three times more expensive than home-based care. Delaying and/or diverting nursing home placement saves the State money, and allows people to stay where they want to live, at home.