Dear XXXXXXXX:

We are writing to you as three of the largest senior, disability and health care coalitions in Kansas to express our grave concerns about the President’s proposed budget. We collectively represent, serve, and advocate for hundreds of thousands of Kansans, including seniors, individuals with disabilities, and enrollees in KanCare, the Kansas Medicaid program.

The President’s proposed budget would be extremely harmful to the Kansans we work with every day. We are concerned about the following provisions of the budget and urge you to oppose them.

* **Medicaid:** The proposed budget will devastate Medicaid by slashing more than $600 billion beyond the $830 billion in cuts included in the House version of the American Health Care Act. Among other things, these cuts would greatly reduce the ability of KanCare to provide services and supports that enable people with disabilities to get a job, pay taxes, and live the American dream.

The Medicaid program needs more funding and support from Congress, not less. Thousands of your constituents rely on KanCare for in-home supports, long-term services and supports (LTSS), mental health care, medical care, nursing home services, and community-based services to avoid expensive institutions. The cuts proposed in the President’s budget are shortsighted and will result in a greater need for high cost services in the future.

* **Social Security:** The budget cuts more than $74 billion from Social Security and Supplemental Security Income over 10 years, nearly all of which comes from Social Security disability programs. This disproportionately harms people with disabilities who are already are practically forced to live in poverty just to be able to keep their disability and Medicaid benefits.
* **Disability Programs:** The budget eliminates funding for Councils on Developmental Disabilities, independent living services, and traumatic brain injury services. It redirects less than half of these cuts to create a new, significantly smaller disability block grant to States, cynically calling this move an “innovation.” The budget also cuts funding for the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research by nearly 9%.

* **National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:** NIH funding would be reduced by nearly 20%, cutting research on the causes of and successful interventions to address disabilities and the needs of seniors. $35 million would be cut from CDC efforts to prevent developmental disabilities.
* **Housing:** The Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Section 811 program would be reduced by $25 million, resulting in a loss of housing and risk of homelessness for seniors and Kansans with disabilities.
* **Research and Other Interventions:** The President’s budget devastates funding for research and interventions in a number of areas critical to the everyday lives of the most vulnerable Kansans. Research on evidence-based interventions and medical training for health professionals to care for individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities, authorized by the Autism CARES Act, is eliminated. The Paralysis Resources Center, which provides programs and services focused on the promotion of independence and quality of life for Americans living with paralysis is eliminated. The Limb Loss Resource Center, which provides similar services to Americans living with the loss of a limb, is eliminated. In addition, the proposed budget slashes funding for mental health block grants, the Institute of Child Health and Human Development, and the National Cancer Institute.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your staff to discuss our concerns. Please contact Rocky Nichols with the Disability Rights Center of Kansas (785-806-5777 or rocky@drckansas.org) or Sean Gatewood with the KanCare Advocates Network (785-220-5355 or seangatewood@outlook.com).

Thank you for your time and attention to our request. We look forward to working with you to craft a federal budget that protects the Kansans we represent.