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Oral opponent testimony on HB 2030

Authorizing nonpublic school students to participate in activities regulated by the Kansas state high school activities association and allowing nonpublic school students who enroll part time in a public school to participate in nonpublic school activities.

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Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

KASB appears today in opposition to HB 2030. Our member-endorsed legislative policies specifically support the KSHSAA's responsibility for the oversight of student interscholastic activities, which enhance students' academic achievement and postsecondary success. We also strongly support the authority of the KSHSAA and local boards of education to establish and enforce academic standards of participation for all students.

Our members have repeatedly expressed to KASB their fervent hope that the legislature will "stay in its lane" and not interfere with the roles of locally elected boards and the KSHSAA. This position is based on the fact that the KSHAA's governing body includes representatives of the State Board of Education, which has constitutional responsibility for general supervision of education; public members appointed by the Governor; local school board members representing the boards constitutionally charged with operating public schools; and the member schools themselves, both public and private.

It's unclear why HB 2030 seeks to overturn the KSHSAA's authority. The KSHSAA has for many years worked with schools to allow nonpublic school students to participate in activities and is more than qualified to continue to do so. We urge the committee to reject HB 2030.