From: Shannon Boranyan
To: K12 Budget; Linda Featherston
Subject: Fwd: Testimony to the House K-12 Education Budget Committee
Date: Monday, February 12, 2024 9:53:58 AM

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February 12, 2024
Testimony to the House K-12 Education Budget Committee

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BILL NUMBER: HB 2738
Opponent
WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

Consider this my written opportunity to voice my opposition to bill HB 2738.

Any attempts at changing the current method of calculating the state's share of special education funding should be vetted by experts and stakeholders. This bill creates a completely new way of calculating funding without careful review or thoughtful consideration of its impacts.

The impacts affect family personally. I have been forced to homeschool my special needs child because of lack of staffing at his school. I could, as suggested by several legislators, peruse legal action against the district. This would take time and money. All while my child's education suffers.

It is time for the state to meet its obligation to fund 92% of excess special education costs. School districts, the State Board of Education, and the Kansas Department of Education all recognize that special education hasn't been fully funded since 2011. The shortfall has grown to an estimated $173 million.

This bill provides no additional funding this year or in future years. Failure to provide adequate funding hurts all of our kids in public schools as districts must transfer money from their general education funds to cover the shortfall.

A Special Education Task Force was created for the purpose of reviewing the current method of funding and determining if any changes are needed. Please vote no on HB 2738 and refer it to the Task Force for further review.

In the meantime, please follow the phase-in plans proposed by the Governor or the State Board of Education to fully fund special education. Our schools will not be fully funded until special education is fully funded.

Shannon Boranyan
Kansas Citizen -Elementary Teacher Masters in Education

Overland Park, KS