



March 15, 2023

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Kansas Action for Children
Neutral Testimony on HB 2060
Senate Committee on Education

Chairperson Baumgardner and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2060, a bill that would create a task force regarding special education. Kansas Action for Children is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization working to make Kansas a place where every child has the opportunity to grow up healthy and thrive.

Effective special education for Kansas students requires a number of stakeholders. When adults are a committed team, the student is more likely to have positive outcomes. This team consists of parents, special education teachers and administrators, classroom teachers, paraprofessionals, the school board, and the student. All work together to ensure adequate and responsive individualized educational plans to meet the needs of the student.

The task force this bill creates is missing several key voices when you look at the important group of people supporting students in special education. We believe representation is also needed from the professionals who are supporting special education every day. We ask that you expand the task force's number of members to include several of the following suggestions: one public school special education administrator, a public school special education teacher, and a public school board member.

Without these additional stakeholders, the task force misses out on the balanced perspective of the adults who are collaborating for the best outcomes for students with special needs.

As to the purpose of the task force, we ask that it not seek to disrupt the commitment to robust funding for special education. Data shows the need of special education services is growing, and the Legislature has a responsibility to ensure adequate and equitable education for every Kansas student. Collectively, we must meet the rising challenge of children's needs in an ever-changing world.

Thank you for the opportunity to share information with you today. Feel free to reach me at daniel@kac.org if you have any questions.