

I'm a private citizen Jenna Gorton testifying as a proponent of House Bill 2142. Thank you for this time.

I am a college senior at Washburn University. I was declared as an education major for the first three years that I was attending school. Through my time at Washburn, I realized that my fellow students who were passionate about the wellbeing and education of children were overwhelmed by the compounding safety concerns about being in a classroom environment. I feel it is irresponsible to let access to clean water be one more stresspoint for new teachers.

The information about disproportionate lead presence in the blood of Kansas kids is not private nor is the information about the disproportionate density of lead pipes within our water distribution system. This information, if left unacted upon, makes our state look like it's unwilling to take the wellbeing of our children seriously.

With the upcoming implementation of the EPA's Lead and Copper Rule, it will become increasingly important to demonstrate our state's proactive willingness to address the lead issue head on. Kansas students deserve just as much opportunity as those from any other state. They don't deserve to be a last second consideration.

I urge you to vote in proposition of House Bill 2142 because Kansas students and staff deserve to know that they have a safe environment to learn and grow in. Thank you again for the time to speak on this issue.