



Oral opponent testimony on

HB 2458,

Authorizing the state board of education to establish new school districts

In

House Education Committee

By

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Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,

KASB appears today in opposition to HB 2458.

The decision to close a school building is painful for a Board of Education and for the community. It typically takes place after years of careful consideration of enrollment trends and other factors, as well as many hours of difficult conversations at the board table and in the community. We feel these decisions are best made at the local level, by a board of education that is subject to the will of the voters.

We oppose HB 2458 because it would potentially allow one person in a community to override the decision of the locally elected board of education and, perhaps, the majority of the school community, and in doing so, requiring the use of taxpayer dollars to argue and litigate carefully considered local decisions. We urge the committee to reject HB 2458 and allow local control and the democratic process to drive decisions in Kansas school districts.

Thank you

KASB is a non-profit service organization built on an abiding belief in Kansas public schools. We have put the needs of students and K-12 leaders first since 1917.

Kansas Association of School Boards

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