

February 3, 2023

House K12 Education Budget Committee

HB 2218

I am testifying as an opponent of HB 2218. The remainder of this testimony, I want to make some comments about the impact of HB 2218.

I am providing testimony from a rural district perspective. Southern Lyon County USD 252 covers 295 square miles south and east of Emporia serving 600 students in Lyon County. USD 252 works with elected local & state officials in Lyon and Coffey Counties to build an annual published budget based upon the needs of our student and community's population.

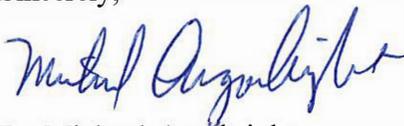
Utilizing public funds for the private sectors is reckless and will not be distributed equitable to public and private schools as presented in HB 2218 across geographical regions of Kansas. Rural districts will have financial implications with detrimental long-term effects. Appropriating additional funds to private education sectors, reduces the dollars across the State that could be utilized for public education. This bill, along with any additional legislation utilizing public funds for private/home schooling will be a rural school destroyer.

Public schools accept all students regardless of socio-economic factors, disabilities, academic abilities, or geographical placements. Public education funds provide opportunities for all students in Kansas, giving all children a chance to be successful. Public schools also have several layers of accountability to comply with. Until home school/private schools comply with the same expectations/accountability/access required of public schools, funding should not follow these sectors.

USD 252, over seventeen years, range from 90-120 (approximately 100 average) out-of-district students each year. Parents have choices, and they exercise this choice annually, as demonstrated by out-of-district student enrollment data. Lyon County has private school availability, along with three public school district choices.

Kansas public schools continue to serve all students, while adapting to the challenges of elevated public expectations alongside positive and productive environments. We are requesting this committee to reject HB 2218. Thank you for your attention on this bill and your service to Kansas!

Sincerely,



Dr. Michael Argabright  
Superintendent of Schools