



Rep. Kristey Williams, Chair
Committee on K-12 Education Budget

House Bill No. 2485

IN SUPPORT

I would like to go on record as a proponent for HB 2485. I appreciate all the work that you and Representative Thomas have dedicated towards this bill.

Prior history tells us that funding the current year enrollment is not a new concept. From 1992 to Block Grant Funding in 2015, funding for current year enrollment was an option for all districts. Since 2015, growing districts have been hit very hard. Block Grant Funding cost our district millions of dollars in lost revenue that has depleted our cash balances while also raising our overall mill levy to one of the highest in the state.

If the goal is to increase the Kansas economy and bring in new jobs and opportunities, it only makes sense that growth in the student population is likely to follow. Districts shouldn't be penalized when student populations increase by having to wait a full year before the funding shows up.

We have struggled to remain competitive with neighboring districts in regards to our salary schedule for experienced teachers. Our goal is to use this one-time fix to make improvements to our salary schedule that will help us retain staff which will ultimately benefit our students.

Thank you for your consideration and time,

Doug Schwinn
Director of Business & Finance