



**Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center**  
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Written Testimony in opposition of HB 2594  
February, 29.2024

Respectfully submitted by,  
Katherine Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer, Director Special Education  
Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center and Coordinator Early Childhood  
Developmental Services (tiny-k).

Honorable Chair Williams and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to address this bill and thank you in advance for your considerations of my concerns.

Officially and foremost, I believe the Special Education Funding Task Force had and has an important role in assisting the legislature in understanding special education and related service funding. As a long-time Special Education Administrator and parent of children who received special education services, I have “first hand” knowledge of our system of funding and supporting special education services. As a member of that Task Force I believe the process started should be allowed to address the needs lined out by the 23 legislature.

However, if the K-12 Committee is to propose and to revise this bill by (1) eliminating the current Special Education and Related Services Funding Task Force and (2) creating a new School Funding Task Force to review associated statutes related to the Kansas School Equity and Enhancement Act (K.S.A. 72-5131)—I encourage that the committee ensure representation of special education providers, administrators, and state board representation. Additionally, I also strongly urge the committee to include both Infant Toddler Special Education (Birth to age 3) and Preschool Special Education (age 3 to Kindergarten) as participants.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to provide brief written testimony on this important topic. The time frame was very short with my schedule.