

February 13, 2024

Testimony to the House K-12 Education Budget Committee

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BILL NUMBER: HB 2738

OPPONENT: Opponent **WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY**

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

Please oppose HB 2738. Any changes to the education budget needs to be created and vetted by education funding experts and the special education funding formula is especially complicated and important. Critical investments in equitable access to the learning opportunities students need to succeed should be a priority to the House K-12 Education Budget Committee. Teachers cannot serve the students of their classrooms that have IEPs and 504s without the necessary funding and services; as a result, you will see more teachers leave the profession and the state will experience a critical teacher shortage.

Now is the time to fully fund special education using one of the plans provided to you by the Governor and the State Board of Education. All Kansas kids are hurt by the current \$173 million shortfall, as districts must transfer general funds to cover the shortfall in special education funds.

For the sake of my students and my children and their peers, I ask that you vote no on HB 2738.

Erica Benson

Overland Park, KS