

**February 13, 2024**

**Testimony to the House K-12 Education Budget Committee**

**NAME:** David Brumbley

**TITLE:** Kansas Citizen

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**BILL NUMBER:** HB 2738

**PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL:** Opponent

**ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:** Written Only

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to bill HB 2738.

I am a parent of a child currently receiving special education services in the Olathe school district. We have been working with the staff in his classroom and the administration responsible for their oversight to ensure that his classroom is fully staffed with professionals capable of seeing to his needs and those of the other students in the class. Those conversations always, always come back to the issue of program funding availability or the lack thereof. This bill is not the solution to that problem.

Any attempts at changing the current method of calculating the state's share of special education funding should be vetted by experts and stakeholders. This bill creates a completely new way of calculating funding without careful review or thoughtful consideration of its impacts.

It is time for the state to meet its obligation to fund 92% of excess special education costs. School districts, the State Board of Education, and the Kansas Department of Education all recognize that special education hasn't been fully funded since 2011. The shortfall has grown to an estimated \$173 million.

This bill provides no additional funding this year or in future years. Failure to provide adequate funding hurts all of our kids in public schools as districts must transfer money from their general education funds to cover the shortfall.

A Special Education Task Force was created for the purpose of reviewing the current method of funding and determining if any changes are needed. Please vote no on HB 2738 and refer it to the Task Force for further review.

In the meantime, please follow the phase-in plans proposed by the Governor or the State Board of Education to fully fund special education. Our schools will not be fully funded until special education is fully funded.

Dave Brumbley

Olathe, KS