



**Renwick Public Schools – USD 267 – 600 W Rush – Andale, KS 67001**  
Tim Hayden – Superintendent

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February 12, 2024

Chairman, esteemed members of the committee,

I am writing to express the Renwick School District's grave concern regarding House Bill HB2738 and its potential impact on the provision of special education services within our district and across the state of Kansas. The Governor's recommended five-year plan to attain compliance with the special education state statute is commendable, but the proposed HB2738 threatens to undermine the very spirit of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and jeopardize the welfare of our most vulnerable students.

At present, the Renwick School District, like many others, relies on a combination of state and federal aid, as well as local funding, to adequately support our special education programs. However, HB2738 shifts the burden of accountability for increased costs solely onto the districts, effectively leaving our children behind in terms of their educational needs.

Despite over 40 years of audits conducted by the Legislative Post Audit indicating that the current system of special education funding is functional and effective, HB2738 offers no concrete information on how it will impact existing funding mechanisms. This lack of clarity is deeply concerning, particularly when considering the potential repercussions on services provided to children with disabilities and giftedness.

Preliminary calculations suggest that HB2738 will have a significantly negative impact, as it fails to account for future increases in the number of Kansas children with exceptionalities and the corresponding costs of providing specialized services. By merely counting general education funding transferred by local school boards as state-provided "special education aid," the proposed formula appears more concerned with achieving paper compliance than adequately funding the true excess costs of special education.

Ultimately, HB2738 poses a direct threat to the continued growth and development of our most at-risk students, both within our district and statewide. It is imperative that this committee carefully considers the potential consequences of enacting such legislation and prioritizes the well-being and educational rights of all Kansas children.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Tim Hayden  
Superintendent,  
Renwick Public Schools