

**NAME:** Dr. Sara Jahnke  
**TITLE:** Senior Scientist  
**EMAIL ADDRESS:** sarajahnke71@gmail.com  
**BILL NUMBER:** HB 2738  
**PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL:** Opponent  
**ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:** Written

Dear Chair & members of the committee,  
I am writing to voice my opposition to bill HB 2738.

As a mom of a child with special needs, I have become very familiar with both the need for additional supports in our schools and the detrimental effect of not fully funding special education. I have also spent a significant amount of time reviewing the funding formula and the reasons for disparate rates state-wide. I first encourage everyone to review the variables included and excluded from the formula as they are reasonable expenses if not somewhat limited.

I am disgusted by the games being played in Topeka – from a call for a task force to a refusal to call the task force once formed. At a point where the state has an excess of funds, I can think of no better way to spend it than on our children.

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.

Dr. Sara Jahnke  
Senior Scientist  
NDRI-USA, Inc.

Prairie Village, KS