

Deborah Kitchin, Kansas Resident

dmkitchin@yahoo.com

Bill Number: HB2738

Revising the special education state aid statewide excess costs calculation to count additional funding, requiring the state board of education to determine each school district's excess costs and to establish a special education state aid equalization distribution schedule.

Position: Opponent Testimony, Written-only

Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 3:30 PM

Committee: House Committee on K-12 Education Budget

Chair: Rep. Kristey Williams

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee,

Please fully fund special education. Voting to fund special education fully is good for all of Kansas.

My son is visually impaired and was provided special education services from Pre-school to his Senior year. He is a successful sophomore engineering student at the University of Kansas because of his teachers for the visually impaired and orientation and mobility specialists. These are unique skills that require additional education and hands-on experience. It is costly. Our special education professionals and their services must be funded so our students can overcome their disabilities and succeed.

I live in Johnson County. Our schools are the best in the state and nation. We must have special education monetary support from the legislatures to perform as we do. Our rural schools need special education as much as our urban communities.

It is terrible for Kansas for our students to not have the legislature's support. Sadly, we must spend so much time fighting for what we all know is right for our students.

Please do the right thing and fully fund special education.