

February 13, 2024

Testimony to the House K-12 Education Budget Committee

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TITLE: Kansas Parent

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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 a parent of 4 children in public Kansas schools. 2 of them benefit from IEPs and our kid's experiences and support from the school district has been fantastic. The fact that special education is still underfunded in Kansas, after so many years and with such a large budget surplus, is absolutely shameful. I'm writing to share my concerns with HB 2738.

This bill creates a very complicated change to the special education funding formula. Such a significant change should be reviewed and vetted by experts before being voted into law.

Please send this bill to the Special Education Task Force that was established to study the current funding formula to determine if any changes are needed. Members of the Task Force have the expertise needed to ensure the calculations presented in this bill are logical and ultimately support the needs of Kansas kids.

Instead of spending time on unvetted calculations, please follow Kansas law and 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.

Respectfully, I ask that you vote no on HB 2738.

Brad Larson
Kansas Parent
Overland Park