

**February 13, 2024**

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

**NAME:** Chelsea O'Donnell

**TITLE:** Kansas parent and former Infant Toddler of Johnson County board member

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**BILL NUMBER:** HB 2738

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

**ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:** written

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to explain my opposition to bill HB 2738.

Please take advantage of our state's experts and 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. SPED services are vital to the quality of education all students deserve.

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

Chelsea O'Donnell  
Overland Park