

February 13, 2024

Testimony to the House K-12 Education Budget Committee

Trish Reedy

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BILL NUMBER: HB 2738

Opponent

WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

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

My daughter receives gifted education from the Blue Valley School District as regular classroom education does not meet her needs. This special classroom time is essential to her growth and development, both academically and socially.

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.

Trish Reedy

Overland Park