

K-12 Education Budget Committee Members:

I would like to submit the following written testimony opposing HB2738.

On behalf of USD108 Washington County Schools Board of Education, we oppose underfunding of Special Education. Our district is comprised of 352 students K-12. 68 of these students receive Special Education services. We spend an average of \$20,810 per month from our Local Option Budget to supplement the current level of Special Education funding. The \$249,720 that we supplement annually would be a huge help to provide added services and staff to help ALL students in our district. These funds would enable our district to add support programs and staff to assist the students that need extra academic help.

No matter what method is used to determine the percentage of funds directed to Special Education, the fact is we are using local tax dollars from our Local Option Budget to fund mandated services. Our students need and deserve the services and our taxpayers deserve the State doing their share as promised to fund these mandated services.

Thank you,

Rod Stewart, USD108 Board of Education President