

USD 306 The Southeast of Saline Schools
Excellence in Education...Maximizing Student Potential

5056 E. Highway K4, Gypsum, KS 67448

Voice: 785-536-4291

e-mail: rstumpf@usd306.org

RE: HB 2738

Ladies and gentlemen of the committee,

I am providing testimony in opposition to B 2738. The formula for calculating excess costs for special education has been in place for over 30 years. The attempt to completely rewrite this formula is obviously an attempt to sidestep the legal obligation to provide more funding toward special education. I wonder what the committee would think if KSDE decided with all the legislative initiatives to mandate certain percentages of Kansas students score a level 3 or 4 on the state assessments that we simply rewrite the tests and the cut scores so that 99% of all students scored a 4. Would that be an acceptable approach to meeting our obligations to have high scores? This bill is no different. It is obvious and a slap in the face to all the districts who know exactly how much money they are transferring to special education from our General Fund and/or LOB to cover the current state deficiency in funding those students with special needs.

My district is budgeted to transfer \$508,000 to special education from our General Fund to cover special education costs. That constitutes about 31% of our special education costs. By statute, our obligation is 8%. Changing the formula to claim the state is funding close to 100% without actually allocating any more dollars will not change the fact that we will have to transfer another half a million dollars next year to fund special education here. Your approach is smoke and mirrors and we deal in reality. These are real students and they require real resources that cost real money.

I urge you to reject this measure.

Roger Stumpf
USD 306
Southeast of Saline.