

February 13, 2024

Testimony to the House K-12 Education Budget Committee

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TITLE: Kansas parent of two children who graduated from KS public schools

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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 writing to share my opposition to bill HB 2738.

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. Both of my children benefitted from special education programs throughout their education, and I have a number of friends whose families rely on these services to keep their students in KS public schools.

This proposed bill creates a very complicated change to the special education funding formula. I want to trust that legislators understand their responsibility to ensure that 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.

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. Please follow Kansas law and fully fund special education.

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

Lisa McGahey Veglahn
Prairie Village, KS