

February 13, 2024

Testimony to the House K-12 Education Budget Committee

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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 ask today that you reject HB 2738.

The legislature established a Special Education Task Force to study special education funding. The members of that Task Force expressed an interest in continuing to meet to determine if any changes were needed. Not only have they not had time to determine if any changes are warranted, but the special education experts and stakeholders on that committee or who would testify in that committee have not had an opportunity to review the complex calculations introduced in this bill for accuracy or its potential impacts.

Kansans are asking for special education to be fully funded. School districts, the Department of Education and the State Department of Education all recognize there is a shortfall of \$173 million. School districts have felt the impacts of the shortfall and all students are impacted.

Please vote no on bill HB 2738 as it feels hasty in its origination and has not had the proper time to be vetted by experts and stakeholders, let alone time for the public to thoroughly understand its impacts to be able to provide thoughtful testimony.

Erin Woods