

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

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.

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.

My daughter was born with cerebral palsy & cortical visual impairment. She loves learning in school & being social with friends. In order for her to have success & thrive, she relies on

support from paras, multiple therapists (OT, PT, Speech, Vision) as well as adapted schoolwork & class setups. Passing this bill would show that disabled children are not worth allocating dollars & resources for and that is unacceptable. I see it as a vote against humanity. Disabled individuals deserve access & inclusiveness & a robust education like all children do.

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

Jami Woods RN, BSN

Leawood, KS

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