



900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 600
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212
(785) 296-3203
www.ksde.org

Danny Zeck
District 1

Melanie Haas
District 2

Michelle Dombrosky
District 3

Ann E. Mah
District 4

Cathy Hopkins
District 5

Dr. Deena Horst
District 6

Dennis Hershberger
District 7

Betty J. Arnold
District 8

Jim Porter
District 9

Jim McNiece
District 10

OPPONENT IN PERSON TESTIMONY HB 2717

Monday, February 19, 2024

K-12 Education Budget Committee

Kansas State Board of Education, Liaisons, Ann Mah and Deena Horst

Madam Chair and Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition of HB 2717.

The Kansas State Board of Education and the Kansas State Department of Education currently work with sixty districts as they provide virtual school services to students over 20 years of age. In almost every case, we have had few issues with the reporting and auditing process. For this reason, we do not believe HB 2717 is needed.

However, there is one part of the bill that would significantly impact the reimbursement process and may result in increased costs to the state. As the Committee is aware, districts can be reimbursed \$709 per credit earned for qualifying students. The reimbursement is limited to six credits per year, not to exceed a total of the credits required for graduation by the school district. The six-credit limit allows for funding equivalent to a full-time student and the current practice is to reimburse districts for credits earned in the previous school year.

Section 1e would require funding to be provided for credits earned in any preceding school year and could result in reimbursement above a total of the credits required for graduation by the school district.

If a district required the 21-credit minimum, a student might earn all 21 credits in one year, and the district would be eligible to request reimbursement for up to six credits each year until they were fully reimbursed for the 21 credits. This means the district would be funding the student as more than full-time even if the funding is spread over four fiscal years.

Although we oppose HB 2717 as unnecessary, it is very important the Committee amend section 1(e) to only allow funding for credits earned in the previous school year. Failing to do so will set a precedence of funding students as more than full-time which will add significant cost.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our input and we hope you will oppose HB 2717.