

Written Testimony on **SB 407**

submitted to the

Senate Education Committee

by

Jim Edwards – Lobbyist Representing

Topeka Public Schools – USD 501

February 8, 2024

We appreciate the opportunity to provide neutral testimony on **SB 407**, a measure that would require the State Board of Education to authorize teacher licenses for individuals who complete an alternative teacher certification program.

We support your desire for excellence in the classroom and strongly believe that this is only achieved with the rigorous training of teachers, whether it be in post secondary teacher education or alternative programs. While teacher recruitment is one of the three main areas of interest for Topeka Public Schools – USD 501, we believe that there needs to be rigorous criteria, and approval for such alternative teacher certification programs. It seems logical that **all** criteria and approval should fall to the State Board of Education as they are the entity that would be **required** to do the licensing.

We thank you for your consideration.