



Oral proponent testimony before the
Senate Education Committee

On

SB 465 Authorizing school districts to levy up to two mills in Capital outlay for the purpose of school building safety, security and compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act.

By

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Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 465. As we understand the bill it would authorize school districts to levy an annual levy of up to two mills for the purpose of school building safety, security and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and including such levy in the capital outlay state aid for school districts.

The Legislature has established the School Safety and Security Fund. This fund is for school districts to request funds to be used for school safety issues. To request funds districts must complete an application and meet certain criteria to be eligible. In the last fiscal year, the legislature allocated \$5 million. There were requests from 188 school districts totaling requests for \$14,377,259. The \$5 million was prorated to the eligible districts.

The School Safety and Security Fund is unable to meet the many needs of school districts across Kansas. In order for school districts to attempt to meet the safety needs of their students we request that a school board be authorized to use 2 mills of capital outlay. When districts have 2 mills to use, they can begin to prioritize their needs for safety concerns, or they can also use these monies to comply with the American with Disabilities Act. With the two mills school districts can put the necessary measures in place and pay for them over time.

United School Administrators of Kansas supports the concept of local control for school districts. Local School Boards can make the decision to request taxpayers to contribute additional resources for the safety of the students they serve. Your favorable consideration of this legislation is requested.