



Oral proponent testimony on

SB 465

Authorizing school districts to levy an annual levy of up to two mills for the purposes of school building safety, security and compliance with the Americans with disabilities act and including such levy in the capital outlay state aid determination for such school districts.

By

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In

Senate Education Committee

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Madam Chair and members of the committee,

Thank you for opportunity to share proponent testimony with you on SB 465. KASB's member-adopted legislative resolutions support "*[e]nsuring equitable and adequate funding for school district capital costs by revising the capital improvement aid formula and allow districts to provide appropriate facilities.*" In our permanent policies, "*KASB supports evidence-based, cost-effective steps to foster safe and secure school environments.*"

This bill extends welcome flexibility to local boards of education and their constituents to raise additional capital outlay funds for the specific purposes of enhancing safe and secure school environments and making improvements to enhance the accessibility of district facilities. As has been evidenced by the large numbers of applicants for Safe and Secure Schools grants from KSDE the past several years, district needs in this area far outstrip the funding that has been available through that grant program.

We must share at least one concern about the bill, which is that it is unclear how this expanded authority might be impacted by the revenue neutral rate hearing laws. We reiterate our members' position that the Legislature should exempt school districts from

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the revenue neutral rate hearing provisions, because school district funding is largely driven by formulas in statute and the revenue neutral rate law therefore causes needless confusion for taxpayers and unnecessary costs for districts to comply with its provisions.

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We have put the needs of students and K-12 leaders first since 1917.***