



Kansas Grain and Feed Association
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association

February 3, 2025

To: House Committee on Education
From: Trae Green, Vice President of External Affairs (trae@kansasag.org)
Re: **Proponent Joint Written Testimony on HB 2103**
Including participation in certain learning experiences and agricultural activities as a valid excuse for absence from school and authorizing school boards to make rules therefor.

Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA) is the state association of the grain receiving, storage, processing and shipping industry in Kansas. KGFA's membership represents 99 percent of the commercially licensed grain storage in the state. Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association is a trade association of more than 700 agribusiness firms that supply fertilizers, crop protection products, seed, petroleum products, and agronomic services to Kansas farmers.

Chairwoman Estes and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2103. This testimony is submitted jointly by the Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA) and Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA).

KGFA and KARA have long-supported policies and programs to increase youth understanding and participation in agriculture, particularly those conducted by Future Farmers of America (FFA) and the Kansas 4-H.

We believe, when vetted through the proper channels as determined by the board of education, students should not be penalized with an absence from school for participating in agricultural science activities, scheduled FFA events and 4-H programs part of organized competitions.

Members of our organizations encourage efforts to promote a ready workforce with the necessary skills and competency to participate in the marketplace. The activities under the direction of FFA, 4-H and similar organizations outside of the classroom oftentimes replicate real-world experiences and leadership development, which are paramount in preparing students for careers in our industry.

Due to its policies promoting growth in agribusiness, we stand in strong support of HB 2103 and would ask this committee to pass the measure out favorably.