



House Committee on Education

Proponent Written Only Testimony on House Bill 2033

Presented by William Wilk, Senior Director of Government Affairs

Thursday, January 23, 2025

Madam Chair and members of the committee, my name is William Wilk, Senior Director of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber of Commerce. The Kansas Chamber represents small, medium, and large-sized businesses across the state advocating for policies to improve the economic climate in Kansas. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on House Bill 2033, a bill relating to at-risk educational programs to include programs and services provided by non-profit organizations accredited by the international multisensory structured language education council.

House Bill 2033 will expand the Kansas Department of Education's approved At-Risk-Programs list to include non-profit organizations with programs, for students with learning and reading disabilities, accredited by the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC), a nationally recognized credentialing process. One non-profit organization this will directly impact is Phillips Fundamental Learning Center in Wichita, Kansas. Phillips Fundamental Learning Center has several teachers who are certified in Alphabetic Phonics, a learning method that uses visual, auditory, and kinesthetic methods to teach students the English language. This bill will allow these certified teachers to expand their effective methods and programs in Kansas.

This [video](#) provides more background on the success Phillips Fundamental Learning Center is having on students.

Dyslexia, with efforts by the legislature last year, was finally recognized as a learning disability by the Kansas Department of Education. According to the *Dyslexia Handbook*, it is estimated 15-20% of our population in Kansas have characteristics of dyslexia. Dyslexia causes the brain to mix up words that are similar, which can lead to slow reading, poor spelling, and poor writing. Phillips Fundamental Learning Center has been around for 20 years trying to serve this population. House Bill 2033 will allow them to continue to serve this population in their community and across the state.

In closing, we view this legislation as a necessary step to protect existing programs for students with learning and reading disabilities. A solid education is the foundation of our society and state. All students should have access to resources and programs that provide educational opportunities regardless of whether it comes from a public, private, or non-profit organization.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2033, and I am happy to answer any questions you might have at the appropriate time.

