

**Testimony before the House Education Committee**  
**HB 2139 – Minimum Expenditure Increase for Sealed Bids**  
**Dr. Renee Nugent, Superintendent USD 409**  
**02/05/25**

Chairs and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 2139. My name is Renee Nugent, and I serve as the Superintendent of Atchison Public Schools, USD 409. I appreciate the committee's attention to this bill, which proposes raising the minimum expenditure threshold for contracted goods and services requiring sealed bids from \$20,000 to \$50,000.

As a school district leader responsible for ensuring the effective and efficient use of taxpayer dollars, I support this legislation because it provides much-needed flexibility for school districts and other public entities while maintaining responsible oversight of public funds.

The current \$20,000 threshold has not been adjusted in many years, despite inflation and the rising costs of goods and services. In practical terms, this low threshold creates unnecessary administrative burdens for routine purchases that could be more efficiently handled through standard procurement processes. For example, a recent outage of a boiler that needed immediate attention was delayed due to the current minimum threshold. We missed that threshold by only a few thousand dollars, but that was primarily due to the cost increase of the parts we needed. Raising the limit to \$50,000 allows districts to operate with greater efficiency, reducing delays in obtaining essential services and materials while still ensuring fiscal responsibility through local policies and board oversight.

In a district with aging facilities, purchases for maintenance, technology, and transportation often exceed \$20,000 but remain well below \$50,000. Under current law, the sealed bid requirement can slow down our ability to address urgent needs—whether it's replacing some major needs, like the boiler example I used above, or even the need to purchase new risers for an auditorium that barely exceed the amount. Increasing the threshold will allow us to act more swiftly while still securing competitive pricing and ensuring transparency.

I respectfully urge the committee to advance HB 2139 to provide Kansas school districts with a more realistic and workable procurement process. Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome any questions.

Renee Nugent  
Superintendent, USD 409 Atchison Public Schools