



February 10th, 2025

House Education Committee,

Written testimony in support of HB 2139

John Hutchinson, CPA, Chief Financial Officer, Olathe Public Schools

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Chair Estes and Members of the Committee:

Olathe Public Schools supports House Bill 2139 and the increasing of the threshold under which the board of education of every unified school district may delegate to the superintendent of schools the power to execute contracts on behalf of the district for the purchase of goods and services if the value of such goods is under \$50,000 or less, vs. the current \$20,000 referenced in Sec. 2. K.S.A. 72-1151.

Olathe Public Schools serves approximately 29,033 students in fifty-one public schools in five high schools, ten middle schools, and thirty-six elementary schools. Our Board of Education and staff pride themselves on being good stewards of taxpayers' dollars. Internal processes exist aside from this statute that ensure fair and competitive pricing is obtained for all our purchases. However, with the size of our district and nearly a half- billion dollar budget the \$20,000 threshold established in 2006 creates an unwarranted inefficiency in our system. Based on our volume of purchases the \$20,000 threshold is exceeded regularly, adding time and cost to the procurement process, something smaller districts do not face.

The proposed \$50,000 threshold will alleviate the inefficiencies related to seeking Board approval on routine purchases, that due to our size exceed the long unadjusted \$20,000 threshold. The time saved in a more efficient process around a \$50,000 threshold can be better utilized for other financial matters we deal with.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Hutchinson, CPA". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the last name "Hutchinson" being the most prominent part.

John Hutchison, CPA

Chief Financial Officer

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