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HB 2203 Adding FASD to the Conditions that May Establish Eligibility for Special Education

Proponent - Written Testimony for Hearing on January 15th, 2026

Honorable Members of the House Committee on Education:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information on HB 2203, in support of passage. I am a Kansas constituent and Certified General Education Teacher licensed in KS, MO, and MS. I teach students daily with a vast array of intellectual, physical, emotional, behavioral, and social abilities. In my 13 years as an educator, I have known and taught children of 4 families (1 in KS) supporting a child(ren) with FASD.

I ask that you please consider passage of HB 2203 to include FASD as an OHI qualified diagnosis, because all children—no matter diagnosis, deserve access to services that could benefit their successes academically, behaviorally, socially, emotionally, and developmentally. Knowing that FASD often appears across many levels of severity and can seemingly not affect some children drastically, is important to note for support of this bill. It sheds light on the fact that children with FASD can succeed and live meaningful lives; yet, some children require extra support to do so. FASD is no different than any other medical condition already supported in determination of need for Special Education Services.

As an educator, I have seen hundreds of children thrive when given access to supports that drive their success. Likewise, I have seen the system fail the same children because “they weren’t severe enough” and/or the system could not provide the necessary support, for reasons such as lack of trained staff or resources. Level of severity in a medical diagnosis should not be the determining factor closing the doors to services. If the services are proven successful for any child and the research credible, these services should be accessible to any child showing the necessity of supports.

I ask that our legislature proudly support the necessity for children with FASD to obtain qualified status under Other Health Impairment within Special Education Services.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak on behalf of HB 2203 and supporting the efforts of the FASD community!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Murphy-McDaniel