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Toilet Training

House Committee on Education

January 26, 2026

Chairwoman Estes and members of committeeThank you for allowing us to submit testimony **in support of House Bill 2486.**

Aligned is a nonprofit, nonpartisan education policy organization working across Kansas and Missouri to support policies that improve outcomes for students while recognizing the important role educators and families play in a child's development. Aligned supports House Bill 2486 because it provides clarity around kindergarten readiness expectations in a way that supports teachers and prioritizes the educational experience of students.

Kindergarten classrooms are designed to support early learning, social development, and foundational academic skills. Teachers are responsible for meeting the needs of an entire classroom while maintaining a safe and productive learning environment. When students require ongoing assistance with basic self-care, instructional time can be significantly impacted for both the student and their peers. HB 2486 helps establish clear expectations that allow teachers to focus on instruction and classroom engagement.

The bill also includes important protections for children who need additional support. Students with disabilities, individualized education programs, Section 504 plans, or verified medical conditions are explicitly exempt from the toilet training requirement.

HB 2486 provides school districts with guidance and flexibility to address individual situations while maintaining a consistent statewide standard. This approach supports collaboration between families and schools and helps ensure decisions are made in the best interest of children.

For these reasons, Aligned supports House Bill 2486 and respectfully urges the committee to advance the bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Claudia Fury-Aguirre

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