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HB 2510 Board Membership Dues
Proponent -Webex
Committee on K-12 Education Budget
February 6, 2026

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

We appreciate this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2510.

It is important to note that the Kansas School Board Resource Center is a nonprofit organization that provides student-focused training, guidance, and other services to state and local school board members at no cost. As such, HB 2510 has no impact on whether school board members have access to KSBRC training, conferences, or workshops. The information I share comes directly from feedback I receive from Kansas school board members across the state, almost weekly, who would like the opportunity to use funds approved by the state at their discretion for access to professional learning organizations and offer training that provides support and insight into issues that are effecting their districts. These board members are seeking opportunities to better serve their constituents and learn from perspectives about how to overcome the challenges their districts face every day.

The current statute authorizes school boards to pay membership dues to one organization. If a district uses state allocated funds for one organization, that places a financial burden on individual school board members. Board members who may benefit from joining other professional organizations —organizations that provide valuable insight and expertise on issues directly affecting their schools—must pay those membership costs out of their own pockets. To do so, many spend hundreds or even thousands of their personal dollars to join organizations, attend conferences and trainings to better serve their districts. School board members dedicate countless hours to meetings, and work through complex challenges facing their districts because they are deeply invested in their service. They understand the significance of the decisions they make for the students and families they represent. Not allowing board members to use district funds that are sanctioned for membership in an organization or training that best meet their district needs ultimately limits their capacity to serve their districts as effectively as possible.

Kansas academic achievement scores have shown a persistent and consistent decline over the past decade. Restricts school board members from using district-allocated funds to join organizations that may offer alternative or innovative perspectives on how districts can address and reverse this downward trend. School board members who attend conferences and trainings hosted by a variety of organizations learn new ideas, enjoy valuable networking opportunities, discuss the practical strategies that they brought back to share with their administration and fellow board members. Limiting access to diverse professional learning opportunities restricts innovation and opportunities for different perspectives at the school board table. It ultimately restricts their efforts to learn new insight to improving student outcomes.

We encourage you to recommend HB 2510 favorably for passage that provides individual school board members with the opportunity to use the funds earmarked for school board membership to use at their discretion to join organizations that will help them meet the challenges in their districts and best serve their students and communities.

Thank you for your consideration.