



Neutral Testimony – HB2404
House Committee on Judiciary
Representative Susan Humphries, Chair

March 17, 2025

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Wichita Public Schools

Chair Humphries and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral testimony regarding HB2404. Student safety is of paramount importance for the Wichita Public Schools, the largest school district in Kansas charged with keeping over 46,000 students safe while in our care. The district already has policy in place to deny access to registered sex offenders while students are present. The District screens all visitors and issues formal restrictions when it discovers a registered sex offender with a student attending one of our schools. Much of this bill falls in line with our current practices.

As in our written testimony to the Senate Committee on Judiciary, we are looking for some clarification around a few points. We do not prevent a parent with such a record from dropping off or picking up his or her child at school as long as they don't enter the school grounds. Transportation to and from school is already challenging for many of our families. This is something you may want to consider clarifying in the bill. Additionally, while our policy prohibits sex offenders from attending field trips and other activities occurring off school grounds, the definition of school property is very broad. Does the non-school business owner have a responsibility to screen other visitors if we use their facility for a field trip? If we rent space in a larger building, are the other tenants expected to prohibit access? We would appreciate clarity around these items as well.

We appreciate the Committee taking the time to consider this bill that further ensures the safety of all students. Our position is neutral but request further clarification of the items noted above should this bill move forward. Thank you.