



Oral opponent testimony on

SB 48

School district accreditation

In Senate Education

By

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Madam Chair and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today in opposition to SB 48.

KASB's member-affirmed legislative policies state, "We support general supervision of public schools under the State Board of Education, including setting standards for accreditation, learning standards, graduation, and licensure. We support management of public schools under locally elected boards of education, including setting curriculum, staffing, financial management, and policies, so that such schools can progress and meet State Board standards."

SB 48 appears to conflict with the state constitution's granting of the "general supervision" of public schools—which includes decisions on accreditation—to the State Board of Education. As a result, we're compelled to oppose the bill.

In addition to our constitutional concerns, we confess to being confused by the phrase "not in compliance" on page 2 of the bill. This is so vague as to be unworkable. We respectfully ask the committee, under this bill, who decides what "in compliance" means, and when? Is it when the State Board of Education makes that determination? A court? A single legislator or parent? We respectfully suggest this phrase is not a workable standard, and highlights the constitutional problems noted above.

Thank you.

KASB is a non-profit service organization built on an abiding belief in Kansas public schools. We have put the needs of students and K-12 leaders first since 1917.