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2/12/2025

Opponent Testimony for Senate Bill 45

Senate Committee on Education
Cathy Hopkins and Danny Zeck, Liaisons
Kansas State Board of Education

Chair Erickson and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony regarding Senate Bill 45 on behalf of the State Board of Education. The State Board has historically set the method to determine graduation rates for accreditation and knows no reason to change this practice. The State Board's authority on this matter, and others, has been upheld in court cases such as the one noted below.¹

Senate Bill 45 would create a two-tiered system of accreditation for public schools in Kansas – one for public virtual schools and one for public brick and mortar schools. The State Board respectfully requests the Legislature reject Senate Bill 45. The State Board contends this issue can be dealt with between the State Board and any School District offering Virtual School without legislation.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our testimony,

Cathy Hopkins

Danny Zeck

¹ State ex rel. Miller v. Board of Ed. of Unified School Dist. No. 398, Marion County (Peabody), 1973, 212 Kan. 482, 511 P.2d 705