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2/11/2026

Opponent Testimony for SB 384
Senate Committee on Education
Cathy Hopkins and Beryl New, Legislative 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 384 related to the innovative schools statute.

K.S.A. 72-4223 outlines the process for the Coalition of Innovative School Districts. There is not a current active coalition, the last coalition was in existence from 2014-2017.

SB 384 only makes changes to the dates of application and the timelines for approval. To date, there is no indication that the current timeframes are problematic and that this bill is needed. The State Board's major objection to the bill is the 30-day requirement to act on a district's application to become a member of the coalition. The State Board sets their meetings for two days each month and it is the Board's policy to receive this type of request in one month and approve it in the next. This is why the current 90-day time frame is important.

The State Board opposes SB 384 because it would require an unreasonably short time frame for approval of coalition applications without any clear need for the change.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our testimony,
Cathy Hopkins and Beryl New