



Senate Judiciary Meeting
Potential Senate Concurrent Resolution Prohibiting School Closure
June 23, 2016
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Chairman King and members of the Committee:

We appreciate this opportunity to share our support of prohibiting the legislature and courts from closing schools stemming from school finance litigation.

It's hard to imagine that any court would threaten to violate students' constitutional right to education by closing schools over a tiny funding dispute, but that's the bizarre reality we face. Statutory prohibition of school closure as set forth in K.S.A. 60-2106(d) and K.S.A. 72-64b03(b) is obviously insufficient to deter the Supreme Court from threatening such action, so we support any further action that would keep our schools open and allow students in Kansas to exercise their constitutional rights.

Clearly, what was lost in the Court's overreach is the impact on not only the students, but families, school employees and even entire communities.

We all know this insane litigation carousel we're all on is toxic, and without a doubt has helped fuel the mistrust between the citizens and their government. And we recognize that there must be long-term solutions to allow the educators to be able focus on what they are there to do: teach kids.

Obviously, a resolution is not a long-term solution, but it is a step in restoring some much needed confidence in the system.

Thank you for your time.