



**KANSAS ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOL BOARDS**
Serving Educational Leaders, Inspiring Student Success

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**Oral, Proponent Testimony before the
Senate Committee on Education
on
SB 51 - requiring a Kansas foster care children annual academic report card
by
Mark Tallman, Associate Executive Director
Kansas Association of School Boards
February 3, 2021**

Madam Chair, Members of the Committee:

KASB appears as a proponent of **SB 51** based on a policy position adopted by our Delegate Assembly.

Under the goal of helping students be successful as individuals, we have the position:

Improve educational outcomes for the growing numbers of students in foster care or homeless. There are increased concerns about lagging success indicators for students in foster care, and additional state scrutiny. The needs of these children may be increasing as a result of the pandemic.

KASB understands the special challenges faced by children in foster care. Our organization is part of a state agency group working to address the educational needs of these children, which is complicated by movement among different school districts. We have worked to raise awareness of these issues among our members. We have increased training for school districts in dealing with the impact of childhood trauma.

We realize that the results of a report card on education outcomes will show deficiencies. Not all of the educational challenges facing children in foster care can be solved by the school system. But we are committed to supporting efforts to improve those outcomes. Measurable data is an important step.

Thank you for your consideration.