



Unified School District 232



De Soto – Shawnee – Lenexa – Olathe
www.usd232.org

Frank Harwood Ed. D
Superintendent of Schools

January 20, 2023

House Committee on Education
Support for HB 2040

Chairman Thomas and members of the committee:

Thank you for taking time to read my testimony in support of HB 2040.

As I am sure you are aware, the statute governing public school funding in Kansas (KSA 72-5132) is inescapably complex. There are numerous factors that must be considered to ensure an equitable distribution of funding for 286 districts ranging from smaller than 50 students to more than 40,000, including all the differences in local communities and demographics. One factor, declining enrollment, is of particular concern across the state and has been addressed in the funding formula. However, recent changes to the funding formula have caused a hardship for districts experiencing growth.

HB 2040 addresses concerns from growing school districts by allowing the use of current year student counts in the calculation of a district's General Fund authority. Without this change, districts will continue to be required to incur expenses for a growing student population without receiving funding for the students they are serving. As an example, if a student enrolled in the district on September 21, 2022, the district would not receive the corresponding BASE funding until the 2025 Fiscal Year. This delay in funding has real consequences in providing equitable educational programs and competitive staff salaries.

HB 2040 provides a relatively simple way to address the concerns of Kansas school districts with increasing student enrollment without a negative impact on districts that have stable or declining enrollment.

Again, thank you for allowing me to provide testimony in support of HB 2040.

Sincerely

Frank Harwood
Superintendent
USD 232 – De Soto