



Written Proponent Testimony of the **Kansas Public Health Association** to the  
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee  
HB 2142 | February 14, 2023

Chairman Thomas and members of the committee:

Thank you for allowing the Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) to provide written proponent testimony in support of HB 2142, which creates the get the lead out of school drinking water act to require schools to comply with legal limits on lead content in school drinking water.

According to data from [The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), lead in drinking water can lead to significant problems for children including learning and behavior problems and brain damage, which continue through a child's lifespan. We have seen the effects of lead in water on young children through the Flint, Michigan water crisis, and have an obligation to prevent another crisis of that magnitude here in Kansas by providing lead-free water to school-aged children.

By taking the steps outlined in HB 2142, Kansas can continue to protect the health and well-being of school children throughout the state by offering lead-free drinking water in schools. The Kansas Public Health Association encourages the committee to pass HB 2142 as presented.

Respectfully submitted,

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KPHA is a professional association for Kansas public health practitioners, professionals, and advocates. As a voice for public health, KPHA provides a forum for individuals and organizations to work collectively to assure conditions in which Kansans' lives will be healthy. *(This position reflects the collective position of association members through the action of the Board of Directors and may not necessarily reflect the views of each KPHA member's employer.)*