



Written neutral testimony on HB 2669

Codifying the MHIT program in statute

By

Leah Fliter,

Assistant Executive Director for Advocacy

Kansas Association of School Boards

Lfliter@kasb.org

In

House Health and Human Services

February 8, 2024

Madam Chair and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear as neutral today on HB 2669.

KASB's member-affirmed legislative policy positions advocate for increased support for the mental health needs of students and staff; improved collaboration across agencies and with the Legislature to support educational outcomes for students in foster care or experiencing homelessness; and efforts to address other identified student health and safety issues. HB 2669 would help Kansas public schools in our continuing efforts to ensure a quality education for all Kansas children.

KASB applauds and supports HB 2669's codification of the crucial MHIT program, which has truly saved student lives in our state. Codification of the program would help us all in our important work to support student mental health.

We respectfully suggest a revision to the bill (see page 4, line 16). We have great respect for the Association of Community Health Centers and its work with our school districts; however, this section appears to give the Association "veto power" over grants awarded to other, non-Association providers. The needs are too great, and access to qualified providers too critical, to grant one provider this authority. We suggest instead that KDADs conduct independent oversight of the grant program that is codified in HB 2669.

Thank you.

Kansas Association of School Boards

1420 SW Arrowhead Rd, Topeka, KS 66604 • 785-273-3600 • www.kasb.org

