



Oral opposition testimony before the Senate Education Committee

On

SB 255, concerning school districts; relating to school sponsored travel and activities; requiring separate overnight accommodations for students of each biological sex.

By

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

Our school board members support general supervision of public schools under the State Board of Education and management of public schools under locally elected boards of education so that schools can make progress and meet State Board of Education standards.

Schools already have addressed the issue of accommodation during overnight travel and are in the best position to navigate changes and challenges as they arise. In reaching decisions on this issue, schools confer with parents and students.

This bill creates a cause of action to sue school districts in an area of law that is changing. Expected federal rules on Title IX and sexual discrimination would likely run counter to what this bill says if it were to become state law. That would put school districts between a rock and a hard place, either breaking federal law or state law and getting sued. We cannot support legislation that puts districts in this kind of jeopardy.

If this bill were to become law, probably the simplest way for school districts to handle it would be to provide a separate room for each student during overnight travel. That would increase the expense of certain activities and may lead to the curtailment of those activities, thus limiting students' learning opportunities.

Thank you.

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Kansas Association of School Boards

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