

Written Testimony on SB 479
submitted to the
Senate Committee on Education
by
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Topeka Public Schools – USD 501
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We appreciate the opportunity to provide this written testimony in support of SB 479, which we believe will enhance the hiring and retention of teachers.

We also believe, however, that this bill could go one step further by clarifying that other school district employees, required to be certificated, are also included. While this may be the intent of the bill, we do not believe that this is clear enough to eliminate future issues or confusion.

We understand the fiscal restraints of such an expansion. If all certificated employees cannot be included at this time, we ask that they be under serious consideration in the very near future. We know you are aware that school districts, and the students they serve, all require a team effort and all members of those teams are becoming increasingly harder to find and retain.

We thank you for your consideration.