

Testimony before the  
**Senate Education Committee**

on

**SB 479**

by

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**Testimony provided on behalf of the USA-Kansas and Kansas School Superintendents Association**

Chair Baumgardner and Senate Education committee:

USA-Kansas and KSSA stand neutral on SB479.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you SB 479. The movement from Tier 3 to Tier 2 is a very good move for our educators. We believe this will help with the teacher shortage.

The reason we stand neutral is this bill does not cover all the areas that have shortages within our schools. Bus drivers, paras, custodians, speech therapists, etc. Even the areas that are not experiencing a shortage, secretaries, administrators would also benefit from this change. You can see opening this up to cover these people could also help these areas with their shortages.

There are approximately 43,000 licensed personnel in our school systems. Approximately 34,800 positions have the word 'teachers' in the title. Basically, there would be 8,200 personnel that would not be afforded the opportunity to have a healthy retirement should this bill pass. That is not counting the people hired in the years after this bill should pass.

If this bill would include all education employees USA-Kansas and KSSA would be in full support. This bill could be good for all members of KPERS. It simply needs to be extended to more employee groups.