

Senate Education Committee
March 7, 2012
Testimony from Dr. George Griffith
Superintendent Trego County USD #208

Testimony on SB 450

Madam Chairwoman and Senate Education Committee;

Thank you for allowing me to express my support for SB 450. **Specifically, I support the current funding formula and the efforts of the sponsors of SB 450 to work to replace the funding cuts made in educating the children of Kansas.**

The children in my district and across the state of Kansas are the future of this state. It is important that the state meets its constitutional duty in providing a suitable education for our children. My support for this bill is based on the following points:

- 1) The bill allows for the continuation of weighting which provides the financial means to help address the needs of children that have special needs and/or circumstances.
- 2) SB 450 provides a means to replace some of the funds districts have lost due to the cuts we sustained the past four years.
- 3) This bill maintains a fair and balanced reliance on state and local funding so that the children living in high poverty areas still have a comparable level of education as children in areas of greater financial means.
- 4) The option to increase the local option budget with equalization will provide those districts with the local means to increase funding while keeping a fair and balanced educational opportunity for all students.

I would recommend the following changes:

- 1) Districts should be permitted to go above 30% on the LOB solely on a protest petition without a need for a vote since equalization is included.
- 2) Equalization for the LOB should be at 100% and not prorated.

Madam Chairwoman and members of the Senate Education Committee, I appreciate the work the authors of this bill have done to provide additional funding for education in an equitable

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manner. I strongly urge you pass SB 450 and maintain the current funding formula that when properly funded, meets the constitutional obligation of the State of Kansas to educate the children of this great state.

Thank you again for considering my comments.