

Testimony before the  
House Education Budget Committee  
February 7, 2013  
In Support of HB 2109  
On behalf of the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce

My name is Dick Carter, Jr., and I appear before you today on behalf of the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce, in support of HB 2109. Below is an excerpt from the Chamber's Legislative Policies and Positions document, which outlines the Chamber's position supporting the need for a second count date for schools in (or around) military installations.

"The official head count for schools to receive funding is taken on September 20<sup>th</sup> of each year. Because of military buildups, influxes experienced by several unified school districts (USDs), and the need to provide educational services, In 2006, HB 2002 allowed for a second count date for military students on February 20<sup>th</sup>. HB 2002 required that if the number of new military pupils increased by at least 25, or by a number equal to or greater than 1% of the district's enrollment, the enrollments of the district for 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2012, and 2012-2013 should be increased by the number of new students. These students were required to be enrolled on the February 20<sup>th</sup> date for those periods, and not on September 20<sup>th</sup>. The counting date in the provision has allowed USD 383 and other USDs impacted by military students to count influxes of new students not counted on September 20<sup>th</sup>, due to deployment or block leave, as students on February 20<sup>th</sup>.

Given the steady increase at Fort Riley, the possibility of a continued increase in military families in the district and the continued turmoil of these families moving into the district throughout the school year, coupled with the need for schools to be funded to hire teaching staff and to provide resources, transportation and supplies, the Chamber feels it critical that the policies embodied in HB 2002 be protected, and extended through at least school year 2014-2015, as difficult budget decisions are made at the state level. The second count date remains essential to meet the educational needs of new military pupils in the region and state."

HB 2109 would extend the current practice of utilizing a second count date for military families/students through 2018, for districts impacted by military persons who are highly mobile.

As you work the bill, I would encourage you to pass the bill in its current form, keeping it specific to students of military families. I appreciate the opportunity to present this information and would answer questions at the appropriate time.