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Senate Select Committee on Education Finance

on

Senate Bill 251

Submitted by

Dr. Kelly Arnberger, Superintendent/Elementary Principal, USD 482 Dighton

May 18, 2017

Chairman Denning and committee members. Thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral written testimony based upon our funding concerns with Senate Bill 251. The structure of the bill is generally sound and would serve well as a tool to determine school aid.

However, the concern and the reason for neutral testimony is the total funding. I serve a school district undergoing a slow declining enrollment. The bill's first year funding boost would cover prior past decreases in funding and provide a bit of money to allow us to plan for our efforts to excel under the KESA accreditation system. The problem is that funding for the second year lacks the same level of increased funding with limited funding increases using the CPI for following years.

Our district, while slightly decreasing in enrollment, will encounter the following immediate needs for new resources: a growing ELL population; personnel to provide regular student support services (social emotional, career investigation, CTE pathways, and interventions); resources to manage the KESA accreditation process; replacement of a maturing faculty; and relevant staff development to increase outcomes for students.

Again, I appreciate the current efforts of both chambers to serve students. I am hopeful through the legislative process an agreement can be reached that will adequately fund our schools so that we may plan and then be able to deliver programs that produce successful Kansas citizens.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly Arnberger
Superintendent/Elementary Principal
USD 482 Dighton