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SENATE

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CARYN TYSON
12TH DISTRICT

March 14, 2022

To: Chairman Baumgardner, Vice-Chairman Erickson, Ranking Member Sykes, and honorable committee members
From: Senator Caryn Tyson

Re: Senate Bill 528 – Testimony in Support

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill (SB) 528 and your work in making our school systems the best they can possibly be for students, parents, teachers, and other stakeholders.

When visiting with teachers, I often am told they are purchasing classroom supplies and not being reimbursed by their school district. According to the Kansas Department of Education (KSDE) Financial Accountability Report School Year 2022 Total of All Funds, K-12 funding will exceed \$9 billion, a reported \$19,487 per student. According to the KSDE USD Cash Balances – 2020-21 School Year report there was over \$36 million in cash reserves and in the 2021-22 School Year report there is over \$42 million in cash reserves. With \$9 billion in funding and over \$42 million in cash reserves, why are teachers not being reimbursed for school supplies?

It shouldn't take legislation for our teachers to be reimbursed, yet here we are. This bill would require each school district reimburse teachers for supplies purchased for the classroom. The bill would set a minimum reimbursement amount per teacher with submitted receipts of supplies purchased. However, there is no maximum on reimbursements so that each school district can exceed the minimum amount to cover all costs of the classroom supplies.

This bill, coupled with SB 520, providing a tax credit for school supply expenditures, will support our teachers and get funding to the classrooms.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 528.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that appears to read 'Caryn'.

Caryn Tyson