

KANSAS
ASSOCIATION



OF
SCHOOL
BOARDS

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Testimony before the
House Children and Families Committee
on
HB 2444

by
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Mr. Chair, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on **HB 2444**; we appear as an opponent. This bill essentially takes the key elements of the seclusion and restraint guidelines, approved in 2007 and turns the “mays” into “shalls.” By doing so, what has been documented as a very successful approach using recommended guidelines is transformed into additional school mandates.

KASB policy, approved by our Delegate Assembly, provides: new curriculum and program requirements should not be imposed unless the change has received an independent cost study and additional funding is provided by the state or the change is endorsed by KASB. The budget director provides a fiscal note of no additional dollars.

KASB believes, however, that’s unrealistic. There will be training costs above those currently being absorbed, if nothing else to make people aware of the new status. There is also the possibility of increased litigation that will certainly affect district budgets.

And the fact remains, there is no need to make these changes. The data at the state level and from our members demonstrate the current guidelines are working even with the most difficult of student behaviors. We urge the committee to let them remain in place.

Thank you.