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Senate Education Committee

Testimony on HB 2269

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The mission of United School Administrators of Kansas (USA|Kansas*), through collaboration of member associations, is to serve, support, and develop educational leaders and to establish USA|Kansas as a significant force to improve education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 2699. This bill seeks to significantly alter the school finance formula by changing how the Base State Aid Per Pupil (BSAPP) and Local Option Budget (LOB) authorities are calculated. As we understand it, HB 2699 would:

- **Increase** the Base State Aid Per Pupil (BSAPP) to \$4,200 using a new foundational funding mechanism and
- **Establish** a local foundation budget using the first ten (10) percent of a district's Local Option Budget

Our opposition to HB 2269 is that it mandates the collection of funds at the local level, allows the state to use those funds to meet the obligation for state funding and creates less transparency in an already complex formula.

Current law establishes the BSAPP at \$4,492 in 2009-2010 and beyond. However, the BSAPP has been reduced several times over the past three years. In FY 2012, the BSAPP is \$3,780 **or \$712 below current law.**

While this bill seeks to increase funding to \$4,200, it does so by making a portion of the current local option budget (LOB) part of the new foundation funding. As we understand it, this new foundation funding captures the first ten (10) percent of a district's LOB. As a result, this would be a **mandatory** levy, as districts would be required to raise at least enough through the LOB to cover the state's portion.

The fiscal note on this bill is \$498 million, all from the State General Fund. Administrators do not believe that such an increase will be funded; therefore, the question remains, what purpose do these changes serve?

While we know there is a lot interest in discussing how education in Kansas is funded, administrators continue to believe that any change should focus on what best supports students. Unfortunately, HB 2269 does not achieve that goal. Therefore, we respectfully ask that you oppose HB 2269.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your continued support of education, for realizing the importance of investing in education and for your thoughtful work this session.

*An. Ed
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