

**KANSAS
ASSOCIATION**



**OF
SCHOOL
BOARDS**

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Testimony before the
House Education Budget Committee
on
HB 2215– Transportation of Non-resident Pupils

by
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Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on **HB 2215**, which would revise limits on the authority of school districts to send buses into another district to transport students to and from school without the permission of the other district. Under current law, districts generally may exercise this authority only to transport students living at least 2.5 miles from the school they would regularly attend in their home district, although many districts have reached voluntary agreements to allow cross-border transportation. The recommendation is to increase it back to 10 miles. The bill would continue an exception in the current law under which school districts with any territory in Johnson, Sedgwick, Shawnee and Wyandotte counties are NOT allowed to enter into other districts to transport students without permission.

KASB appears as a proponent of this bill because of a position adopted by our membership. For the new members on the committee, I'd like to briefly explain how our association operates. KASB is a voluntary association providing a wide range of services to school boards and their districts, as well as to educational institutions such as regional service centers and special education cooperatives. Community and technical colleges are also eligible for membership and may join for certain services. This year, all but two of the state's unified school district boards of education are members.

KASB's revenue comes from membership dues, fees paid to our legal assistance fund, fees for professional services and meeting attendance, and various services designed to help districts manage costs. We provide extensive legal services, assistance in teacher negotiations, education and financial research, superintendent searches, training and assistance for school boards, clerks, superintendents, principals and other district staff, a workers compensation pool and loss control assistance, endorsed insurance programs such as student accident coverage, and a natural gas purchasing pool.

Our advocacy function includes testifying before for the Legislature, providing information to legislators and other officials, and reporting on the actions of state and federal government to our members. Our lobbying expenditures are reported to the Governmental Ethics Commission and are available to the public as required by law. Every member school or governing board has one vote in our Delegate Assembly, which usually meets annually at our state convention. The Delegate Assembly determines our policy positions before the Legislature and other government authorities. As is the case of all deliberative bodies, those positions reflect the will of the voting majority, not necessarily all of our members. Of course, issues sometimes arise that our members have not previously considered. In that case, we look to guidance from our previous and more general positions.

Four years ago, our Delegate Assembly adopted a position specifically opposing further changes in the so-called “10 mile bus law,” but the limit was lowered 2.5 two years ago. Because our position did not change, we now are in support of this revision. We understand some of our members may be happy with the 2.5 limit, while other would like to see it revert back to 10. Regardless, our policy supports the 10-mile limit, so we are compelled to testify as a proponent.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to respond to any questions.