

**Testimony at House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice**  
**Opposing HB 2243**  
**February 6, 2017**

Chairman Jennings and members of the committee:

My name is Amy Allison, and I am the Executive Director of the Down Syndrome Guild of Greater Kansas City. I have worked with people with developmental disabilities for the past 21 years. In my current role, I serve more than 725 families living in the state of Kansas who have a loved one with Down syndrome. During my career, I have attended hundreds of IEP meetings, performed classroom observations, offered peer presentations and trained school personnel in many school districts in the state of Kansas.

Last year's Emergency Safety Intervention (ESI) law was a compromise by all parties. The ESI Task Force specifically considered this type of exclusion and opted not to include it in their recommendation.

I am appreciative of all of the work the Task Force did where stakeholders from all sides of this issue came together, listened to each other, and put together a comprehensive policy that was unanimously recommended by the task force (and nearly unanimously passed by the legislature).

I find it disappointing that not even seven months after the new law took effect, we have a school district coming back to ask for a new exemption.

I ask you to oppose HB 2243. Thank you for your time and attention.

**Amy Allison**  
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