



Testimony before the  
**House Committee on K-12 Education Budget**  
on  
**HB 2242 – Classroom Based Funding Act**  
by  
**Mark Tallman, Associate Executive Director for Advocacy**  
**February 7, 2017**

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. As you begin the process of developing a school finance formula, we are sharing along with this testimony a copy of "Putting Students First," a document that contains both recommendations and rationale for KASB's school finance positions.

This document is the result of two years of work by KASB, based on feedback from local school districts, research on the finance formulas of the states with highest educational outcomes, and following the work of the United School Administrators. The positions in this document were developed by the KASB Legislative Committee over three meetings in 2016 and approved by the entire KASB Delegate Assembly in December. This document was shared with Governor Brownback following his request for input.

Based on these position, KASB opposes **HB 2242** for the following reasons:

1. Over our two-year process of study, no district proposed a classroom-based funding system and no "aspirational" state that exceeds Kansas in outcomes uses a such a system. All states studied, and the position of our membership, supports a student-based "foundational" system.
2. The bill does not seem to provide adjustments for cost differences specifically endorsed by research and the position of our members.
3. The cost studies in the bill appear to focus on what school districts are currently spending, not what they need to spend in order to meet the Rose capacities set forth by the Kansas Supreme Court.
4. The bill does not address the specific issues we believe will be necessary to meet both the Rose capacities and the Kansans Can outcomes of kindergarten readiness, higher graduation rates, improved postsecondary participation and success, individual plans of students and addressing the social and emotional needs of students. We believe this will require more funding for pre-K programs, more career counseling and student support programs, and expanding career and technical education and college preparation programs.
5. The bill appears to begin with a pilot program that would leave the block grant system in place for most districts. KASB believe we can and should replace the block grant system with a student-based system that includes an appropriate foundational amount for each student, adjustments for differences in students costs, and an equalized system for districts to enhance the foundational amount.

We appreciate the sponsor's effort to explore new concepts in schools funding, but we guided by the positions adopted by our members. KASB is willing to provide further positions and research as the committee moves forward in discussion of this bill and other proposals.