



Shawnee Mission School District Area Council of PTAs

A Powerful Voice for All Children
A Relevant Resource for Parents
A Strong Advocate for Public Education
SMAC-PTA

February 15, 2017

Testimony to House K-12 Education Budget

Chair, Representative Larry Campbell

Dana Rooney - Committee Assistant, Room 286-N, 785-296-7654

Wednesday, February 15, 2017, 01:30 PM Room 346-S

SUPPORT HB 2270 Creating the education finance act.

Chair Rep. Larry Campbell, Vice Chair Rep. Steve Huebert, Ranking Minority Member Rep. Ed Trimmer

The Shawnee Mission School District Area Council (SMAC) of PTAs stands in support of House Bill 2270, "Creating the education finance act."

SMAC-PTA, along with Kansas PTA, supports this comprehensive, working school finance plan. We must establish a new school finance formula to replace the Block Grants which expire at the end of this fiscal year. In essence, the block grants paused school funding while our children's needs continued to grow and change. Our kids are running out of time. We need to implement a dynamic, student-based school funding formula that equitably supports all Kansas school kids, regardless of zip code. The operating framework of HB 2270 aligns well with this goal, and as outlined in the Kansas PTA's "School Finance Guiding Principles" which are in general:

- Quality public education for all.
- Some students have greater learning needs.
- Suitable funding is a legislative constitutional obligation.
- Strong schools are rooted in partnership.
- No unfunded mandates.
- Comprehensive early childhood education for all.
- Health and safety for all.
- Invest in educators' professional development.
- Facilitate quality leadership and professional communities.
- No vouchers.
- Driven by state education standards.
- Budget predictability.

SMAC-PTA will continue to advocate for the educational needs of Shawnee Mission students as well as ALL other Kansas youth across the state. We will continue to advocate for adequate funding of a school formula.

Devin Wilson,
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