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Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Julie D. Cannizzo

Assistant Superintendent

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House K-12 Education Budget Committee
Testimony by Mr. Doug Maxwell, USD # 265 Director of Finance
February 15, 2017

K-12 Education Budget Committee:

My name is Doug Maxwell and I have the privilege to serve as the Director of Finance for Goddard Public Schools. I have severed in this position the last seven years and previously worked in the Renwick School District. Prior to this, I worked in the financial industry as a commercial loan officer and as an auditor for a public accounting firm.

Our district currently serves approximately 5800 students and has experienced an increase in student enrollment for *34 consecutive years*. We definitely support this committee's attempt to put a funding formula in place which will create an adequate and equitable system of finance for the next generation of Kansas students. My main focus today is in regards to our concerns about changing the at-risk funding calculations. Our main concerns include the following:

- Using current data, 19.2% of our students qualify for at-risk funding which accounts for **1,034** students. In contrast, by using the U.S Bureau of Census poverty data this number drops to 5.1% or only **336 students**.
- If using this data and projecting to Fiscal Year 2020 with a foundation state aid per pupil of \$4,681, the **change** in at-risk funding for our students exceeds **\$700,000** per year.
- In addition, by using the current system, we know it is directly related to the students we are serving in a current school year and not outdated census information which might not accurately represent our current students and families.

As stated previously, we fully support the committee's effort to create a new system that is fair to all students, however, we felt like it was important to provide additional information on how a change in at-risk calculations can impact a district that continues to have a rapidly increasing student enrollment count.