

February 15, 2017

**Testimony to K12 Education Budget Committee**

Chair, Representative Larry Campbell, Room 286-N

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**PROPONENT, written only — HB 2324 School District Finance & Quality Performance Act**

Hearing: Thursday, February 16, 2017, 1:30 pm Room 346-S

Chair [Rep Larry Campbell](#), Vice Chair [Rep Steve Huebert](#), Ranking Minority Member [Rep Ed Trimmer](#)

The Kansas Parent Teacher Association (PTA) respectfully submits our support for HB 2324 – School District Finance & Quality Performance Act (SDFQPA). As noted in yesterday’s testimony, public education for all school aged youth is a primary responsibility of states and one in which Kansas is bound to by constitutional obligation, as reflected in Article 6:

- The legislature shall provide for intellectual, educational, vocational and scientific improvement by establishing and maintaining public schools.
- The legislature shall make suitable provision for finance of the educational interests of the state.

The underlying conceptual framework of HB2324 - SDFQPA is aligned with our state’s constitutional obligations for public education, as well as with the PTA’s [School Finance Guiding Principles and Key Elements](#) (2016) and [Legislative Platform and Priorities](#), ratified annually by members at the State Convention.

- This plan recognizes the differential learning needs of students across Kansas and within school communities, as well as the fundamental importance of a quality public education for all students.
- This plan recognizes the obligation and value in creating the opportunity, financially, for students’ to achieve meaningful growth toward and proficiency on high academic, education standards set by the State Board of Education.
- This plan recognizes the value of investing in educators’ professional development and facilitating quality leadership, by reinstating such programs as teacher mentors.
- This plan recognizes the importance of securing safe schools and the critical importance of children’s health to their capacity for academic growth.

Kansas PTA members realize that specific elements of this school finance bill may change throughout the session and that this plan reflects a restart from which education stakeholders can choose to continue on a path forward. We also recognize that high quality public schools requires the support and involvement of parents, caregivers and community patrons. Kansas PTA offers our partnership in the process of creating and refining a school finance formula.

[PTA mission and purpose](#) have remained the same since our inception over 100 years ago, focused on facilitating every child's potential and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children and youth.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

*Denise Sultz*

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Cc: Josh Halperin, VP Advocacy; Devin Wilson, State Legislative Chair;  
Debbie Lawson & Brian Hogsett & Mary Sinclair, Team Advocates

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### [Kansas PTA Legislative Platform and Priorities \(2016-2017\)](#)

Legislative Priority 1. Kansas PTA will support efforts to strengthen and improve the Kansas public school finance system, which includes legislation and policies that:

- a.) uphold the state's constitutional obligations to make suitable provision for the finance of the Kansas public schools, achieving both equitable and adequate funding, as informed by actual costs and other credible non-partisan sources.
- b.) pursue solutions to fully fund state and federal educational mandates, including special education, without disproportionately shifting the burden to local communities.

Legislative Priority 7. Kansas PTA will advocate for evidence-based prevention and early intervention programs ranging from comprehensive early childhood programs, funding for all-day kindergarten, to student engagement programs that reduce dropout rates and increase school completion.

Legislative Priority 9. Kansas PTA supports restoration and allocation of state funding for teacher mentoring, staff development and other evidenced-based programs and policies that promote a professional teaching community, teacher retention and recruitment of quality teachers.

Legislative Priority 10. Kansas PTA supports programming and policies related to safe routes to school, bully prevention, and the protection of children from gun violence.

### **THE PTA POSITION**

Kansas PTA is a [nonpartisan](#) association that promotes the welfare of children and youth. The PTA does not endorse any candidate or political party. Rather, we advocate for policies and legislation that affect Kansas youth in alignment with our legislative platform and priorities.