

Jeremy LaFaver
Alliance for Childhood Education
22052 West 66th Street, Suite 200
Shawnee, KS 66226

February 16, 2017

Testimony for the House K-12 Budget Committee
HB 2324 – School district finance and quality performance act of 2017

OPPOSE

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony today regarding HB 2324.

The Alliance for Childhood Education is opposed to HB 2324 because this legislation does not fund full-day kindergarten.

As we testified to this committee previously, a mountain of research exists that demonstrates the importance of full-day Kindergarten. It is the foundation upon which a child's future education is built. Only providing Kansas children with half of the appropriate foundation is setting them up for delays down the road, and higher costs for Kansas taxpayers and businesses too.

We heard a lot of discussion yesterday about how the state could/should define at-risk students. We submit to this committee that, as demonstrated through research, any child that receives half-day Kindergarten is at-risk for future education delays.

Make the right investment on the front end and we will save ourselves a lot of heartache and unnecessary costs down the road. It works that way in business and the research shows that it's true for our future workforce as well.

Thank you.