



# LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

FROM BLUE VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 229

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2697  
HOUSE K-12 EDUCATION BUDGET COMMITTEE  
March 8, 2018  
Written Comments by: Dr. Todd White, Superintendent**

On behalf of Blue Valley USD 229, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support of House Bill 2697**. Our district maintains a strong commitment to the educational and safety needs of our students. Because we are a densely populated and growing metropolitan district, we regularly assess the transportation needs of the students we serve.

As we understand it, HB 2697 increases the comparative cost ratio from 2.8 to 5.0, thus assigning more costs to students who live at least 2.5 miles from school. This raises the costs per student, which raises the statutory curve of best fit and the amount of funding provided to each district. [Legislative Post Audit, *Evaluating Transportation Services Funding*, December 2017]

Currently, the Blue Valley School District transports 7,320 registered riders. Over 4,700 of these students live 2.5 miles or further from school. Our buses will be the only way to school for many children. Our transportation costs exceed our transportation revenue by over \$850,000 per year.

As emphasized in our testimony on HB 2561, any costs not covered by state transportation aid must be paid from our general operating budget – and every dollar transferred from that budget is a dollar that cannot be invested in the classroom.

We want to thank this committee for seeking to be good partners with parents and educators, as we seek together solutions that best meet the educational and safety needs of all our students. I'm happy to answer any questions the committee might have.