

**Senate Committee on Education  
Written Testimony on SB 289**

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Chairperson Baumgardner and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 389, a bill that would change the requirements for administering questionnaires and surveys under the student data privacy act. Passage of SB 389 could improve participation in the Kansas Communities that Care (KCTC) Student Survey and subsequently provide valuable data to inform policy decisions being considered by schools, the legislature and state agencies.

KCTC Student Survey provides a longitudinal (24-year) picture of the behavioral health and wellness of Kansas adolescents.

- *Free to all Kansas schools*
- *District, County, Regional and State level data*
- *County and state data available online*
- *Provides data for planning and decision-making*

The KCTC Student Survey is funded by the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) and administered by Greenbush. We believe that greater participation will provide additional data that can be used to help inform decisions about policies and resources.

The survey has been offered annually since 1995, free of charge, to Kansas schools for students in 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade and the results provide a longitudinal picture of student behavioral health and wellness. While completely anonymous, it provides

school districts with district, building, and grade-level measures of behavioral health issues related to substance use, bullying, and school climate. The survey also offers an optional module for local-level monitoring of student mental health. It has a long track record of producing valid and reliable survey results for schools to use for prevention planning for healthy student outcomes.

**Student Safety and Data Anonymity/Confidentiality**

The KCTC Student Survey has a long and proven track-record of producing valid and reliable data in Kansas. The survey is voluntary, parents are notified in advance and it does not collect any personally identifiable information – no names, no identification numbers. In addition, data are only analyzed and reported by groups. To safeguard concerns with small groups, any question or aggregation with less than 20 students is not reported.

There is no risk of identifying an individual student

- *The survey is voluntary and does not collect personally identifiable data.*
- *All data reported as aggregate groups.*
- *To safeguard concerns with small groups, any question or aggregation with less than 20 students is not reported.*
- *There is no risk of identifying an individual student.*

## **Impact of the Passage of Senate Bill 389**

Under SB 389, parents would retain the ability to choose which surveys will or will not be administered to their children, however, it will reduce burden on parents, schools, and community coalitions by allowing parents to opt-out rather than specific requirements of opt-in. Reduction of required paperwork for students, parents, and schools will increase the participation in relevant surveys and the ability to gain even more precise data to measure progress toward outcomes and to guide decision-making.

## **How KCTC Student Survey data is used**

The KCTC Student Survey data supports the following partnerships designed to assist state, regional and local agencies in prioritizing and measuring the impact of prevention and health initiatives:

- **Children's Mercy Hospital and The University of Kansas Medical Center** – Tobacco 21 Policy Evaluation: A quasi-experimental study of the effect of Tobacco 21 on Youth Smoking Prevalence in Kansas
- **The University of Kansas Center for Community Health and Development** – Kansas City Youth Violence Prevention Program
- **Governor's Prevention Sub-Committee** – KCTC data included in the *Kansas Behavioral and Mental Health Profile* used for identifying state prevention priorities
- **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Kansas Partnerships for Success Grantees** – Outcomes related to youth behavioral health including underage drinking; marijuana and prescription drug misuse; depression, and suicide (optional module)
- **Drug Free Communities (DFC) Grants** – Reno, Osage, Allen, Riley and Sumner Counties - Community prevention outcomes related to underage substance use
- **KDADS Kansas Prevention Collaborative Community Initiatives** – 13 Community coalitions
- **KDADS Problem Gambling Task Forces** – KCTC measures youth gambling behavior and potential risk factors of problem gambling for 4 Task Forces and a statewide coalition
- **KDADS Behavioral Health Indicators Dashboard** [www.kbhid.org](http://www.kbhid.org)
- **21<sup>st</sup> Century After-School Programs** – currently supporting outcomes for behavioral health and positive school climate for ten programs
- **Over 200 Kansas School Districts** use the data for local-level monitoring of bullying prevention efforts, school climate, and assistance with measuring new social-emotional learning standards

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lisa Chaney at 620-724-6281.