

Testimony before the  
Committee on Federal and State Affairs  
On  
SB 76  
Submitted by  
Jim Porter, Chair  
Kansas State Department of Education

February 1, 2017

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to summarize the Kansas State Board of Education's opposition to Senate Bill 76. As the licensing authority for teachers and administrators, the State Board believes this bill will greatly hamper its ability to serve the State of Kansas. The State Board will be required to raise our license fees to make up for lost revenue, and this bill would require us to license those who ordinarily would not meet Kansas' standards for professional educators.

Revenue generated by licensure fees minimally covers the costs of processing State Board licenses, including the cost of thorough background checks. Kansas State Department of Education staff estimate a loss of approximately 30% of revenue based on SB 76's exemption for low-income licensees. This estimate is based on the percent of first-time licenses issued to college graduates. Because the Department does not track licensees that are active or retired military, there is no estimate for that revenue. Because of these lost sources of funding, either the Department will need to reduce its licensing staff or the State Board will increase fees for all other licensure applicants. It is important to note the State Board has not increased such fees for over two years.

The State Board is also greatly concerned that section (e) of SB 76 removes the ability of Kansas to set licensure standards for Kansas. SB 76 forces us to issue a professional license to applicants just because they are licensed by another state, even if that state has inferior minimum standards. The Kansas State Board of Education is proud of the high standards we set for our teachers, and we respectfully ask this committee to reject any attempt to delegate our governmental responsibility to other states.