



Date of Testimony: February 15, 2018

Bill Number: HB 2233

Testimony by: Jenifer Boles

In Opposition Testimony: Written Only

Dear Chair Steve Huebert and Members of the House Committee on Education:

I am writing to voice my opposition to HB 2233, which requires school districts provide teachers with \$500 stipends for classroom supplies and specifies those funds must be paid from the general fund. No appropriation is included for these stipends. Lawrence School Board member Shannon Kimball tweeted that this would cost her district between \$475,000 and \$500,000 out of their general fund.

As a parent in Shawnee Mission School District (SMSD) and a member of Education First Shawnee Mission, a parent-led public school advocacy organization, I find it highly unfortunate that a mandate without funding has been introduced that would damage our healing public schools. The cost for SMSD would extend further than the \$500 per teacher mandate as HB 2233 also requires that all expenditures be submitted with the time consuming addition of an accounting by the district treasurer. Additionally, classroom supplies are defined in a way that limits items to single year use which will likely place unintended limits on supplies purchased by teachers. If an item could be used for multiple years, why would this committee seek to prevent the purchase of a cost-saving item?

Education First Shawnee Mission believes our local SMSD principals, administrators, and elected school board members are in the best position to determine how operating expenses are budgeted. This unfunded mandate takes control away from our district while also placing the burden of determining how to cover the cost from the general fund. Our local classroom needs are not going to be solved by a one-size-fits-all unfunded mandate.

On behalf of Education First Shawnee Mission, I oppose HB 2233.

Sincerely,

Jenifer Boles