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February 10, 2020

TO: Rep. Fred Patton, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Jim Porter, Member  
State Board of Education

SUBJECT: House Bill 2532

On behalf of the State Board of Education, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before the House Judiciary Committee concerning House Bill 2532. The State Board is very concerned about the safety of students in the process of loading and unloading school buses.

We conduct a survey annually on the number of vehicles that do not acknowledge school bus stop arms during the loading and unloading of students. Listed below are some of the results of the surveys conducted:

**One day survey of Kansas School Districts**

April 2019	220 of 286 districts reported 1,040 violations
April 2018	214 of 286 districts reported 1,030 violations

**Kansas 30-day Survey 2017**

57 school districts participating reported 9,967 violations

The important part of House Bill 2532 is that it operates similar to what the Kansas Turnpike Authority (KTA) has successfully used for vehicles that travel through toll gates without paying the turnpike fee. The KTA sends a fine to the owner of the vehicle in violation. House Bill 2532 would allow a fine of \$250 to be mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle in violation of the stop arm law. This law would not replace the existing law but would be a civil option to enforce stop arm violations.

We believe this bill is a positive step forward in the effort to reduce the number of violations of the stop arm law, thus reducing the risk to Kansas school children. This type of enforcement worked successfully in other states such as Alabama, Illinois, Virginia, Connecticut, New York, Georgia, and Maryland.

On behalf of the safety of Kansas students, we would appreciate your support of House Bill 2532.

*Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.*