

Testimony before the

House Education for K-12 Funding

on

HB 2257

by

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Kansas School Superintendents Association**

**Testimony provided on behalf of the United School Administrators of Kansas, Kansas School
Superintendents Association, and the Kansas Association of School Boards**

February 19, 2019

Madam Chair:

Thank you for this opportunity to address the committee.

Our organizations stand as Neutral to House Bill 2257.

Both organizations I represent have a deep understanding for the issue of bullying behavior, especially as it challenges our students and schools. I wish I could stand here today and help assure you there is a perfect solution to the issues our students face in our schools, but in reality it's bigger than our schools, it affects our society as a whole. Our organizations believe our children are heavily influenced based on the behaviors they witness, experience, understand, and are exposed to. As schools, we can only support and provide interventions for our students, we can't change the environmental effects.

This bill reinforces that school districts should have a policy in place to deal with reports of bullying behaviors. Our organizations are in complete agreement with having those policies in place. However, we have a few small concerns with the bill as written. First, we believe most, if not all, school districts have an appropriate policy already in place. Second, we believe the behavior referenced in this bill should be reflected as "bullying behavior," not just simply bullying. It should reflect that bullying is a repeat behavior, not a one-time action. And finally, we want to make sure to remain focused on behavior that happens at school or that substantially effects the school environment.

We are happy to work with the Kansas Department of Education to review our existing policy and share what we believe can be done to help support the effective implementation of existing policies.