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Testimony in writing to the House K-12 Education Budget Committee

In support of

SB 142: Appropriations for the department of education for FY 2020 and FY 2021
in response to litigation; increasing BASE aid for certain school years.

Stand Up Blue Valley: Families for Our Schools

March 19, 2019

Stand Up Blue Valley: Families for Our Schools is a parent and patron advocacy group in the Blue Valley School District. We advocate for legislation that supports Blue Valley Schools and work to help our community understand the importance of their votes to our schools.

Representative Williams and members of the Committee:

As we stated last week in our testimony in opposition to HB 2395: we support SB 142, based on the State Department of Education and State Board of Education's recommendation to fully fund Kansas public schools.

Families move to Blue Valley from across the country, and even around the world, for our award-winning schools. Businesses and entrepreneurs choose to locate in Blue Valley because of our schools. Blue Valley Schools are a cornerstone of our thriving local economy, engaged community, and strong property values. Our Blue Valley Schools are among the best in the nation, which is a boon to the economies of Johnson County and the state overall.

Blue Valley residents understand that an excellent education necessitates appropriate financial investment. We understand that inflation is a reality - in fact, the inflation rate over the last 10 years has been nearly 20% (19.51%). We support passing legislation to add that inflation adjustment.

We appreciate the bipartisan hard work that went into the school funding formula that was passed last session, and believe that formula is for almost all intents, solid and adequate. For that reason we urge you to leave that funding formula in place and add SB 142 to make the inflation adjustment.

Blue Valley voters value our schools, their strong outcomes, and their positive impact on our community, property values, and local economy. Blue Valley voters want our schools funded now, and 10 years from now. The continual funding uncertainty is unsettling and detrimental. Blue Valley Schools cannot adequately plan ahead for staffing next year until the funding is set by the Legislature; our students deserve the opportunity for our schools to make the best use of tax dollars, by allowing them accurate revenue numbers in time to make the best and most efficient hiring decisions.

We appreciate the efforts of the Committee to address the school funding situation. We ask that you pass SB 142 out of committee to provide for the inflationary funding increase our schools need to operate dependably, comply with the Kansas Supreme Court ruling, and to end the ongoing cloud of uncertainty over school funding. We further ask that you allow the remainder of the constitutionally sound funding formula passed in 2018 to stand without alteration.

We look forward to the coming years where our schools will be adequately funded to provide the excellent education each child deserves.

Sincerely,

Patty Logan

For Stand Up Blue Valley: Families for Our Schools