

House K-12 Budget Committee  
2/11/2020  
Room 546-S  
Testimony on HB 2526  
Proponent

Madame Chair, Members of the K-12 Budget Committee,  
Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB 2526. Often when we legislate in these committees we see the good in the bills we pass, yet occasionally there are unintended consequences to what we do. It then becomes our duty to put forth corrective actions to address these opportunities.

When legislation was passed to change the way state aid was calculated regarding capital improvement bonds, the unintended consequence became many school districts missing out on significant amounts of state contributions. Being a federally funded district not able to issue these bonds, Fort Leavenworth school district has the lowest Assessed Value Per Pupil or AVPP and set the rate for state contribution. Districts like Spring Hill (a small yet rapidly growing district) saw a decrease in state contributions from 50% to 19%. Not only does this impact how the Spring Hill school district keeps up with the number of new students and families, it results in the potential for a large property tax increase which will drive families away.

Many of us ran on issues such as adequate funding for schools and addressing property taxes. HB 2526 will address both. Removing Fort Leavenworth school district from this formula will cost them (Fort Leavenworth) nothing and will help growing districts as they look towards future school buildings and lessen the burden of growth. The Spring Hill school district would go from a 19% contribution from the state to 43%. As they grow they will be in need of another school to compensate for such amazing growth and the potential savings would be millions. On top of that, the potential for a mill levy increase goes away which prevents large and unexpected property tax increases on the folks.

In closing, HB 2526 will be a help to not only the school districts moving forward as districts grow and others look to grow, HB 2526 will help the folks of Kansas feel secure in knowing their property taxes will not see a hit due to lack of funding regarding the pay back of these state issued bonds...Everyone wins...Thank you.

Adam Thomas

