

Written Testimony SUPPORTING SB 271- An act concerning education; relating to the Kansas School Equity and Enhancement Act; extending the high-density at-risk weighting; Amending K.S.A. 72-5151 and repealing the existing section.

Submitted By Nikki McDonald, Chair of Olathe Public Education Committee

Kansas Senate Education Committee

Attention Cyndie Rexer at cyndie.rexer@house.ks.gov and Chair Sen. Baumgardner, Vice Chair Sen. Alley, Ranking Minority Sen. Sykes and members of the committee:

I am writing to you today in support of SB 271. It has come to our attention that this legislation is needed because without it, our school district will lose \$687,000 annually that is currently used to help our schools with the highest concentration of at-risk students. Our research shows that this bill will impact around 78 districts across the state. Neighboring districts could lose as much as \$1 million in funding annually. In a time when our school systems are struggling to recover from chronic underfunding, it would not be prudent to make such drastic reductions in funding. Especially when these funds would be taken from the very students who are the most at-risk.

Please consider passing this bill so that the sunset will be removed & our funds can be targeted in the most appropriate manner to help those children who are most vulnerable.

On a personal note, I would like to thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony. I intended to testify in person, but my son has a doctor's appointment that has been scheduled for months & conflicted with your hearing. I appreciate your service to the public and to our Kansas schoolchildren. We are very proud of our public schools & are fortunate to live in a place where our community values learning and teaching.