



Kansas Association of Retired School Personnel (KARSP)

2/5/21

Jerry Henn Executive Director

Ernie Claudel Legislative Liaison

This testimony is for HB 2119 and is in opposition.

KARSP is a long-standing group of retired educators that are very interested in how education progresses in the state of Kansas. We believe in a strong public education system and understand that with a strong public education system comes a strong economic Kansas.

HB 2119 destroys public education by allowing vouchers into our state and a KARSP goal is to protect our current retirees and future retirees of public education.

KARSP believes that every student is important and deserves a great education. The differences between public and private schools are many. One of these is how they can discriminate between who gets in and who does not. Private schools do not have to take all students that come to their doors. This creates a situation that causes discrimination. Public schools take anyone that is within their district boundaries. Public tax dollars for public schools. Special education students are where this will hit the hardest. Private schools do not have to take students with disabilities. This causes a huge equity problem within the state.

This bill will reduce money to schools causing weaker public education. Our members are taxpayers as well and support fair and equal education. They want to see good public education in Kansas. They have given their careers to serving Kansas and its students. They want to continue gaining members that support positive public education that represents the entire state, not just a few students.

In summary, HB 2119 is a voucher bill that KARSP does not support. We want equity and public tax dollars going to public schools. Lastly, we believe that all students deserve a great education. Taking public money and giving to private institutions is not fair and equitable.