

Opponent Testimony before the House K-12 Education Budget Committee
In opposition to
**HB2553 - Allowing K-12 students to transfer to and attend school in any school district in
the state.**
by Becky Plate, Board Member of USD491 Board of Education
February 1st, 2022

Madam Chair, Members of the Committee:

It is my great honor to serve on the Board of Education for the Eudora USD491 Schools. This testimony is my own. I do not speak for the school district or the board as a whole, and this testimony should not be construed as the will of that board. I submit my testimony in opposition to HB2553 as an engaged citizen of the State of Kansas, out of concern for the best interest of our students, my constituents, and for the good-stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

One of the central roles of the local boards of education in Kansas is the responsibility to establish a system of free public education for all residents *of that district*. We provide an education to *all* students within our district borders. Public schools do not choose their students, but they do need to be able to plan for them. Community public schools do not exclude students based on socioeconomic needs. Community public school students are not excluded due to their educational needs, physical needs or behavioral needs. Community public schools are for the benefit the entire community. Community public schools do not cap admission when that community grows. While community growth models are not always as predictable as we would like, districts do rely on them in order to meet the needs of our students. Buildings do not build themselves overnight. Highly skilled and specialized educators do not miracle themselves into classrooms. Strategic planning for student success and economic efficiency demands that districts be afforded some level of long term community forecasting. HB2553 ignores that reality.

Many school districts do have systems in place to welcome out of district transfers, but these options should be left to the duly elected school boards and their appointed district administrators. I ask you to oppose HB2553.