



Testimony before the

House Transportation Committee

on

HB 2596

Jerry Henn, Assistant Executive Director - USA-Kansas and Kansas School Superintendents Association

Oral Testimony provided by Jim Karleskint on behalf of USA-Kansas and KSSA.

Committee Chair Proehl and Committee Members

Thank you for allowing USA Kansas to testify on HB 2596. As the bill is written now, we stand in opposed.

The safety of our Kansas students is first and foremost when it comes to transporting students to and from school and our school activities. Our organization and members cannot support any bill that could potentially remove the oversight of the high safety expectations that have been put into policy by the Kansas Department of Education, and the department that overlooks student transportation.

In section (c) Kansas Department of Education would be removed from any jurisdiction over the transportation needs of a school district. We believe this to include, but not limited to, safety regulations, funding, student privacy, etc. KSDE has well established rules for school safety for our students. Without KSDE involved, how will parents and school personnel be assured all safety measures will be enforced? This is a major concern.

Please take these thoughts into consideration and please do not pass this bill out of committee.