

STATE OF KANSAS

CLAY AURAND
REPRESENTATIVE, 109TH DISTRICT
JEWELL, MITCHELL, REPUBLIC AND
SMITH COUNTIES

BELLEVILLE ADDRESS

810 SHADY LANE
BELLEVILLE, KANSAS 66935
(785) 527-2007

TOPEKA ADDRESS

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 174-W
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
E-mail: Clay.Aurand@house.ks.gov
(785) 296-7672



TOPEKA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
HOUSE EDUCATION (CHAIRMAN)
HOUSE EDUCATION BUDGET (VICE CHAIR)
LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE
1-800-432-3924

House Education Budget Committee
HB 2767
March 6, 2012

Chairman Gordon and fellow Committee Members

HB 2767 would begin a program that would move Kansas toward expanding the educational choices available to our children. The expansion of school choice programs is expanding rapidly across our country as more and more states recognize the power that competition has on the quality of schools. Parents, unquestionably, want the best for their kids. Allowing parents options with regard to the best school environment for their particular child is something I believe many Kansans lack.

The primary reason for HB 2767 is simply to give parents more choices in finding the school that best fits the educational needs of their children. The idea that one school is capable of being all things to all students is simply a standard that is too high for even the best schools in our state. Allowing families to have the ability to access schools other than the local public school does not mean you are opposed to public schools it simply recognizes the fact that kids sometimes are in situations that are not ideal.

Other reasons for considering this bill favorably are that it is designed to save the state money over time as well as decrease the percentage of free lunch kids in the districts that are affected.

There are countless studies on both sides of school choice debate that can be found to justify whatever point you are hoping to make. In the end the issue is very simple, should Kansas start a very modest program that would let us determine for ourselves the wisdom of allowing more parents to choose the school that they believe gives their children the best ability to thrive.

Clay Aurand
Kansas Representative
109th District