

Date: February 13th, 2023

Bill Number: HB2142 *Creating the get the lead out of school drinking water act.*

Written-Only Proponent Testimony

Jonathan D. Smith *on behalf of self*

Chairman Thomas and members of the committee,

Thank you for your time in reading my testimony today.

My name is Jonathan Smith. I have lived on the east side of Topeka for 9 years and in Topeka in general totaling 25 years. I am writing to you today to insist on passing House Bill 2142 in order to mandate schooling in Kansas to treat our children with the same care and diligence that the EPA has afforded to us for decades already.

Lead has been shown and proven to have disastrous side effects to our neurological and physical health. *Especially* in the case of young children. Studies have found that this can be seen in as little as months or years of lead exposure. Mayo Clinic finds that even slight lead exposure over time can have damaging effects on children.

Please, if we care about nothing else, please protect our children against a threat that they cannot see or protect themselves from. School is mandatory, as it should be. Being poisoned by lead over time should not be something we all just deal with at the cost of our childrens' well-being.

It is for all of these reasons that I am providing proponent testimony in regards to HB 2142 and request that the committee please support the passing of this bill.

Thank you so much for your time,

Jonathan Smith, parent of Topeka, Kansas