



HIGH PLAINS EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE

"High Plains Educational Cooperative will assist and support the member districts in providing educational services which will maximize opportunities for all children to live, learn, and work in society." *HPEC Mission Statement*

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Testimony on part (f) 1 thru 6 of SB111
Mike Lewis, Director
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Ulysses, Kansas

Thank you for the opportunity to support SB111. I strongly support the repealing sections (f) 1 thru 6. The concept of setting a maximum and a minimum for the distribution of categorical funds has some issues, which have a negative effect on students. The determination of maximums and minimums rely on a formula, which in my opinion is not easily understood.

My concerns:

1. The uncertain stability of the upper (\$1028) and lower (\$514) limits, which could change with more or less students coming into the state.
2. The teacher entitlement changes each year, which could affect a district.
3. In a High Plains situation, you would gain \$145,008 one year and then lose all of it if you went above \$514. There would be additional costs to the local districts to make up the loss of these funds, in addition to whatever funds it would take to cover the other districts that dropped below \$514, or whatever the amount would be at that time.
4. The teacher entitlement amount is usually determined in or around the first of June, which is well past the time to notify teachers of continued employment. If a district would go above the \$514, you need to make up the amount a district was getting before they went above the \$514. (Budget concern.)
5. District assessments, could go up or down at the last minute.
6. Maintenance of effort issues / concerns.
7. If you are a district in the middle of the \$1028 and \$514 limit, you lose.
8. How does this fit with all the proposed funding changes which are currently being discussed?
9. This does not take into consideration a high needs student moving into a district.

Appropriations Committee

Date March 31, 2011

Attachment 7