



**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
WRITTEN TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2718**

February 15, 2012

To the Honorable Clay Aurand and members of the House Committee on Education:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding House Bill 2718. I appreciate the difficulty you have in developing a budget plan for the state of Kansas. I also appreciate the work of this committee in particular and for your dedication to all students in the state of Kansas.

We wish to go on record saying that the Blue Valley Unified School District #229 supports House Bill 2718. HB 2718 allows school districts which are below the statewide average amount in terms of per pupil spending to adopt a local activities budget that would be supported by school district patrons. Mechanisms for additional local funding of education have been a plank of the Blue Valley School District's legislative platform for many years. Our district's Board of Education would see HB 2718 as a much needed step in that direction. While the state appears to be on a road to some degree of economic recovery, the road back to normal will likely be a long one. That is why measures such as HB 2718 are needed so that local districts, specifically ones that are below the statewide average in terms of per pupil spending, can leverage resources to partially meet the challenges posed by recent budget reductions.

One change to the bill the Committee may wish to consider is adding some type of equalization component to assist those districts who have a lower property tax base. Though the Blue Valley School District would not benefit directly from this, we feel that such an addition would be of tremendous benefit to other districts.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony.

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