

KANSAS
ASSOCIATION



OF
SCHOOL
BOARDS

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Testimony before the
House Federal & State Affairs Committee
on
HB 2492, 2576, 2577, 2578

by
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Kansas Association of School Boards

February 23, 2012

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing the Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB) to present neutral testimony on **HB 2492**, **HB 2576**, **HB 2577** and **HB 2578**. While we don't have policy positions directly dealing with the issues of immigration or the e-verify program, we do have policies that deal with unfunded mandates.

Our policies are quite definitive when looking at mandates passed down from either the federal or state government. We believe that if either level of government deems it necessary for schools, or the school districts that they are part of, to do certain things or have certain programs, then that level of government should also accept the responsibility of funding those.

KASB's reaction to the above listed bills would have been the same if the federal government had been passing down these unfunded mandates rather than, in this case, the Kansas Legislature passing them down. Schools cannot continue to carry out unfunded mandates from either level, especially when the Legislature has been reducing the funding it had committed to schools while at the same time the federal government has continued to lag behind in its funding of key mandates for schools such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Thank you for your consideration.

House Fed & State Affairs

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Attachment 19