

**Testimony on HB2215**  
**House Education Budget Committee**  
**Feb. 14, 2013**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in favor of HB2215 and thank you to Representative Jim Kelly for introducing this bill and Representative Ward Cassidy for agreeing to hold hearings in his committee. I know you have many more important issues so I will be brief in my testimony.

What was previously known as the 10-mile rule was changed last year to the 2.5-mile rule. I don't know why it was changed but I know that Rep. Clay Aurand had tried to change the 10-mile statute for several years and it finally passed in 2012. I won't go into the details of the bill since you probably know that, unless any of you have questions for me.

Some reasons to change this bill are as follows:

- It is **inefficient** to have buses from different districts passing each other picking up students from another district.
  - Many more students are likely to request this service if it is 2.5 miles rather than 10 miles. This **costs more money** to drive the further distance.
  - The 2.5 mile rule **makes it too easy** for a student to transfer when they get angry about something in their home district. It will then be tempting for a neighboring district to pick them up for the additional FTE.
  - This can **create competition between districts** to recruit students for the additional FTE.
1. In these days when we are telling school districts to be more efficient, this would create the inefficiency of buses from neighboring districts passing each other picking up students. I refer you to the attached drawing which illustrates the issue.
  2. When we make this transportation available to students who are only 2.5 miles from their home school we are inviting many more students to request this service thus costing more money for bus mileage because of the distance, but also because more students may now request this service. Again, refer to the attached drawing.
  3. Every superintendent and principal is familiar with the students who get angry at one district and go to another district, only to get angry at that district and then go back. This is not an infrequent occurrence. Again, the 10-mile rule would give a much smaller number of students the transportation option than the 2.5-mile rule.

4. When districts are losing enrollment, like many of our small, rural districts are, it is tempting to recruit students from a neighboring district for the FTE funding. In our area we have made a gentleman's agreement that we would not do this, but when school boards and superintendents change, this agreement can change also. Again, the 2.5-mile rule opens up more opportunities for recruitment than does the 10-mile rule.

For these reasons I urge you to recommend passage of this bill. The 10-mile rule was in effect for many years and there was very little problem with it. We ask you to return to the 10-mile rule.

I now stand for questions.

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# Effect of HB 2215

Cherryvale School District



2.5 - mile rule



10 - mile rule



10 - mile rule



2.5 - mile rule



Independence School District

