



TOPEKA

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Testimony on **HB2723**

House Education Committee February 14, 2018

Over the course of time, since the Unification Act in the mid-1960s, many schools throughout rural Kansas have closed. As a result, there are many places where the closest school is in another school district. **HB2723** allows the local community to align themselves with the district where they are presently sending their children. After a school has closed and the community kids have attended a school in a different district for at least five years, then this action could be taken through being placed on the ballot of a general election.

At present, the community can organize a petition and take it to the local board, and if the school board is not willing to change, the community can take it to the State. This puts the burden of proof on the citizens and takes dedicated community organizing. This bill makes the process easier for citizens to decide by using the familiar process of voting in a general election.

It is important for people to support their own school district, **HB2723** would allow communities to be connected politically and in other ways to the schools that their children actually attend.

