

Testimony on HB 2345

February 14, 2017

Chairman Campbell and fellow committee members.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee.

HB 2345 is an effort to differentiate between those items that are required by state law to be provided for by local school districts, and those items, or activities, that are not required.

There has been discussion for many years amongst policy makers on whether certain areas of spending are required by either the Kansas Constitution or our laws. Many people would agree that claiming anything a school district spends money on is a required part of an appropriate education is not the best of definitions. The difficulty for legislators has been trying to delineate what IS required to fulfill our role in appropriately funding schools.

This bill seeks to solve that problem by allowing the local school boards to tell us what they believe to be activities that don't rise to the level of legal requirement.

This bill is essentially a device to allow individual districts to spend local money on those activities that may have support locally, but do not legally necessitate the contributions from taxpayers in other areas of the state.

I look forward to further discussions on this and encourage you to support this bill as part of the larger school funding legislation.