

Testimony in Support of HB 2345
House K-12 Budget Committee
February 14th, 2016

Thank you, to the Chairman and to this committee for giving me the opportunity to speak. My name is Brian Koon, and I am the legislative liaison for Kansas Families for Education.

Kansas Families for Education stands opposed to HB 2345 on grounds that this bill is most likely unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court of Kansas ruled that in order to be equitable, school funding must require similar tax effort from districts and yield similar results. This bill does neither. It's not equitable to rural schools and schools with low property valuation. It creates a situation in which more populous districts can capitalize on economies of scale, and wealthier districts will have an easier time reaching the 5% maximum percentage. There will be districts that simply cannot afford another property tax.

I also find section f of this bill troubling, because of the formula used. Approximately 5% of BSAPP (which was approximately \$3,800.00) works out to be a maximum spending amount per pupil of around \$190 per year if the maximum tax is raised. That's not enough money to buy necessary safety gear, pads, helmets, maintain fields, etc. Particularly at a time when sedentary lifestyles negatively affect many of us, and recognizing that teaching fitness to our young people is important to us all, it seems unwise to remove any school sponsored avenue for physical fitness.

To conclude, on behalf of public school students, their parents, and teachers all across this state, I urge each of you to reject this bill on the grounds that it is probably unconstitutional, and certainly inequitable. With that, I'd like to thank the chair and the committee for their time and consideration.