

House K-12 Education Budget Committee
On
House Bill 2270
submitted by
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Chairman Campbell and members of the House K-12 Education Budget Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **House bill 2270**. We applaud this effort that appears to be a sound, visionary approach for a long term funding formula for our local public schools with the goal to support "equitable" state funding at an "adequate" level in order to allow every school district to meet the unique needs of our students, as required by the Rose standards adopted by our courts and the Kansas legislature. This legislation would help us create efficiencies through funding predictability, cost of living upgrades, and appropriate weightings to help assure the extra funding to provide for the additional needs of our students.

Without enumerating them, we support **House Bill 2270**'s return to the many proven components of our pre block grant school funding formula that met constitutional muster with our courts and the ways in which this proposal seeks to improve upon them. This sends a strong message that Kansas cares about the unique needs of each school district and is committed to helping our schools provide the best for all of our students, regardless of their zip codes.

We do wish to express a concern with the part of this legislation that moves away from determining our at-risk students based upon the number of free and reduced lunches to the use of the local poverty level number provided by the U.S. Census Bureau. While the use of free-lunch counts may have had some problems, Legislative Post Audit, in a prior audit, found that the poverty estimates published by the U.S. Census Bureau has limitations and cited the fact that they're not always a reliable measure of student poverty at the school-district level. This important change is deserving of further study.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to support this important legislation.