



House K – 12 Budget Committee Representative Campbell, Chairman

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Wichita Public Schools

Chairman Campbell, members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 2379 today. My background and experience is in public sector accounting, financial systems in the private sector and as the District's payroll director and most recently chief financial officer. With experiences in both private and public sector I am able to offer the district a broad perspective.

Our mission is the education of students. The financial department tracks resources and accounts to both state department of education and federal departments. We are stewards of taxpayer resources.

Today's bill would impact over 3 million transactions for Wichita alone by requiring thousands of lines of code to be rewritten. All current systems would need to be reprogrammed to comply with the reporting requirements in the bill. Requiring modifications of the enterprise systems which track accounting, payroll, benefits, human resources, security and alarm systems, job applications, substitute teachers, and grant management. All of these systems touch funding strings.

The sheer magnitude of the number of transactions involved and the cross walks between systems would make this an extremely complicated and expensive endeavor. Additionally, the enormity of the data anticipated in this bill would require substantially greater capacity within KSDE systems to receive massive amounts of data uploads and storage.

We estimate the project would require an extensive period of time for planning. This would require contracting with software consultants to provide planning, programming and execution. This project would require additional personnel to plan and execute, and would require training of hundreds of people including all who touch HR, payroll, vendor, or purchasing transactions.

Wichita has developed a financial system able to handle the state funds used by school districts plus management of over 120 grants and 43 departments. Changing codes at this point would have a cascading effect, just as changing building codes requires security and alarms software changes.

Wichita Public Schools performs over three million transactions each year. The bill requires changing, at the district level, financial coding and requires a brief description for each of our over 3 million transactions. Changing accounting codes at the district level is an extensive undertaking:

- Number of systems involved
 - PeopleSoft – payroll, HR and benefits
 - Oracle Financial – accounts payable, purchasing
 - Hyperion – budget development and management
 - Cognos – enterprise reporting system
- Plus add-on programs for procurement requisitions, Dashboard and others
- Would require all historical data be cross-walked to new system
- General ledger interfaces between systems would need to be rewritten
- Each financial module (16) would be impacted

Mr. Chairman, these are only some of the complexities involved in such an extensive overhaul of accounting systems. This would be costly, time consuming and complex to implement. What is the goal? Having explanations of three million transactions at the granular level will not assist our district in making better spending decisions. Our systems are configured to best serve our district and meet all requirements for financial information required by the state.

I am looking forward to working with you on developing a school finance formula which meets the educational needs of students and would urge the committee to not advance this bill.