



Spring Hill

SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Testimony for House Education Committee

Thank you for allowing us to share our thoughts as a proponent for HB 2561 and HB 2697, which are school transportation bills. We appreciate the amount of work that went into these bills.

My name is Wayne Burke and I'm the Superintendent of Spring Hill USD 230. We are located in southern Johnson and northern Miami counties. We are a small, rapidly growing district with a student population of a little over 3,000 brick and mortar students. When including our virtual students, we increase our population to over 4,000 students.

In the recent past, we were considered a rural district, but with our rapid growth we are fast becoming a suburban district. With this growth, we have seen our transportation costs increase significantly. I've attached a chart with our budget for the last five years.

Exhibit A: Spring Hill USD 230 5-Year Transportation Analysis

As you can see from Exhibit A, in the last five years, we have had transportation expenses over two million dollars more than the funding we are receiving from the state. Year in and year out, our transportation department looks for ways to become more efficient while maintaining a reasonable amount of ride time for our students.

I am concerned about the current statute's "curve of best fit" in relation to our high student density and no consideration for students moving to our district after the count date. We are absorbing the cost for these groups of students, thus making these resources unavailable for other educational needs.

Our last two governors have supported and encouraged growth in our state, however, we have continually been penalized for the growth in our school district. Block Grants didn't have a qualifier accounting for growth and our requested and approved extraordinary needs funding was reduced by or cut completely in the past few years (total cost to the district \$1,165,744) and LOB bases the percentage on prior year instead of current year resulting in a difficult choice to sacrifice our bond and interest cash balance to maximize LOB authority (total cost to the district \$968,772).

If these bills fail to pass, there will be another penalty for growth (total estimated cost to the district \$53,136), reducing funding for transportation.

As a fast-growing district, we would like to receive help in continuing to be economically viable in providing a quality education for all students. Instead, it seems the opposite is true.

Again, we appreciate the effort that went into these bills to fairly and adequately fund transportation costs. Thank you for investing in the education of the next generation of Kansans.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Wayne Burke
Superintendent - USD 230 Spring Hill