

Testimony in support of Senate Bill 146
Senate Democratic Leader Anthony Hensley

Chairman Johnson, Ranking Democrat Sawyer and members of the Committee:

I appear before you to express my support for Senate Bill 146.

Every two years, the legislature is required to extend the authorization for local school boards to levy an ad valorem tax at the rate of 20 mills upon the tangible property of each district. This is for the purpose of paying a portion of the costs of operating and maintaining public schools. Senate Bill 146 would extend this authorization to the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years. Doing so enables local control and provides stability for schools.

The state can assist school districts in making good decisions by providing stability in the funding mechanism, so that schools can plan for future years confident that the resources necessary will be available. Extending the authorization allows school districts to plan accordingly.

Additionally, this bill extends the exemption for the first \$20,000 of residential property from the ad valorem tax levy for tax years 2017 and 2018. This exemption provides property tax relief, particularly for low and fixed-income Kansans.

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 146.