



**March 12, 2018**

Oral, Proponent Testimony before the

**Senate Select Committee on Education Finance**

on

**SB 423 – Amending the Kansas school equity and enhancement act by eliminating the 10 percent at-risk floor and expanded uses of capital outlay.**

by

**Mark Tallman, Associate Executive Director**

Madam Chair, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on **SB 423**. As we understand the bill, the primary purpose is to address two of the issues found by the Kansas Supreme Court in the Gannon adequacy decision to create unconstitutional inequities in the school finance system.

While there are probably many ways to address the equity issues, the most important thing is that they are addressed so the Gannon case can be resolved, and time is beginning to run short. We support this bill with the following comments on its provisions.

**Repeal current law that provides a minimum at-risk weighting for any school district that has less than 10.0 percent of students that are considered “at-risk.”**

KASB has supported the concept of the additional factors beyond free lunch enrollment to determine at-risk funding. However, the court held this provision was inequitable because it applied only to districts with very low poverty rates.

KASB can support this provision, but we could also support other efforts to increase funding for at-risk students. Many districts are serving far more students than are eligible for free meals and spend more money on at-risk students than is provided by current at-risk weighting, especially students experiencing severe trauma or with serious mental issues.

**Repeal current law that allows utility expenses, as well as property and casualty insurance, to be paid from a district’s capital outlay fund.**

This change would address the court’s ruling that **SB 19** went too far in allowing certain uses of capital outlay funds, which are less equalized than LOB funding.

Thank you for your consideration.