



Testimony before the

House Education

on

HB 2166

by

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**Testimony provided on behalf of the United School Administrators of Kansas, Kansas School
Superintendents Association, and the Kansas Association of School Boards**

February 12, 2019

Chairman:

Thank you for this opportunity to address the committee.

My organizations stand opposed of House Bill 2166.

The integration of personal financial literacy into the high school has long been a commitment of schools in Kansas. Over the years the classes have gone through a number of changes and even course titles. During my 24 year tenure as a teacher and principal I can remember classes such as accounting, personal accounting, computerized accounting, personal living, consumer living, consumer math, daily living, economics and I'm sure a host of others around the state.

Some of these classes might have been required, others recommended, and a few just simply available. Although these classes might look and sound different, much of the content was the same, but each class designed to fit the individual needs of a school and community at the time. I'm sure the underlying principles of personal financial literacy has never really changed, save, invest, avoid debt, and keep spending to a minimum.

The reality is it looks and feels different depending on your personal background, experiences and opportunities and that's tough to determine in a bill or a curriculum coming from Topeka. These are again decisions better left to the local level. Let me give you a few current examples I gathered over the weekend:

El Dorado – Specifically imbedded into curriculum

Santa Fe Trail – required class starting next fall

Chaparral – Imbedded into the curriculum with guest community members teaching and coaching students over the years

Smoky Valley – one semester class designed locally

Ellis - trimester course one trimester for personal finance, one for consumer finance, and one for career planning.

Moving forward we oppose this bill not because the concept is bad, but because school districts already understand the importance and are implementing the curriculum to meet their local needs and helping their students prepare for their future.