



STEPHEN LINKOUS
CHIEF OF STAFF

February 1, 2022

Written Testimony In-Opposition to HB 2553

Submitted by Stephen Linkous, Chief of Staff, Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools

Dear Chairperson Williams and members of the committee:

HB 2553 will negatively impact school districts in the state of Kansas in many ways. This approach hinders a school boards ability to plan for the effective and efficient use of a limited amount of dollars needed to meet the needs of students and their families. HB 2553 would be problematic for those students and their families currently enrolled and attending Kansas City Public Schools.

HB 2553 will limit the ability to plan, in advance of the school year, for the unique needs of the students anticipated to attend our schools. HB 2553 looks only at “open seats” in a building or grade level without taking in account the educational needs of the students who attend the school or looking at the potential educational needs of the incoming students. A population shift at a grade level or building can cause significant changes to the number and types of para-professionals or teachers needed at a school site to meet the educational needs of the students. HB 2553 would make it almost impossible to plan for, and deliver, the professional development our staff needs to meet these unforeseen education needs.

Schools and districts also budget and/or allocate a specific number of curriculum resources to different campuses in order to meet the learning needs of the student population that attend specific school sites. As previously mentioned, this entails budgeting of the number of staff, specific allocations of funds for the curriculum and supporting resources needed to meet their students’ academic and social needs. Another impact of this, depending on district size, is the planning of professional development for the district and specific school sites. This planning takes place before the number of students would be available as well as the learning needs of the students and is tailored to improve pedagogy and student outcomes.

As you consider HB 2553, please understand the impact such a dramatic change will have on the students and families of not only Kansas City, Public Schools but all schools in Kansas.