

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



FROM BLUE VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 229

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION WRITTEN TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 70

On behalf of Blue Valley USD 229, we want to go on record as opposing Senate Bill 70 (SB 70). We feel this bill, in its current form, creates an unfunded mandate for school districts to administer the requirements of the bill.

SB 70 requires that a set of finger prints be submitted to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation every five years for all employees who work with or have contact with children. This includes, but is not limited to, teachers, paraprofessionals, bus drivers and food service workers. Additionally, the bill requires that schools districts who are members of the Innovative School District Coalition must bear the all costs of fingerprinting. USD 229 is a member of the Coalition, and as such, would be subject to the requirement to pay all costs associated with fingerprinting. While we understand that desire to have fingerprint checks for employees who work with students, we ask for the flexibility to determine how to pay for those costs.

We ask for your opposition of SB 70. At the very least, we ask that the unfunded mandate portion of the bill be reworked so that schools districts can best decide a suitable funding source for the costs of fingerprinting.

Tom Trigg
Superintendent
Blue Valley Schools, USD 229