



House Committee on Education  
Testimony on HB2504 School District Realignment  
February 3, 2015  
Sean Gatewood

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**Chairman Highland and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB2504.**

**Kansas Farmers Union stands in opposition to HB2504.**

Kansas Farmers Union is one of the state's oldest active general farm organizations, representing Kansas farmers and ranchers since 1907. Our primary goal is to sustain, strengthen, protect, and enhance the economic interests and quality of life for family farmers and ranchers and their rural communities.

**The Kansas Farmers Union is opposed to all efforts to forcibly consolidate schools.**

Schools are a cornerstone in any rural community, therefore closing schools in rural Kansas would lead to deterioration of the quality of life in the affected community. We support local school districts boards of education to make administrative decisions regarding consolidation and efficiency on the local level.

This bill disproportionately effects Kansas from rural communities. HB2504 dictates that certain communities in Kansas will lose their schools. Those communities are almost all rural communities while urban schools are not asked to carry this load.

Children in rural communities often have very long bus rides already, if this bill is to pass many children across the state would have hour long or more bus rides to go to school. Many kids in rural Kansas already have to catch the bus before the sun is up, this would increase greatly if they had to be bussed to a town that is on the other side of the county.

**Thank you for this opportunity. I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.**

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