

**Senate Ways and Means Committee
Testimony: SB 515
USD 229 Blue Valley
March 23, 2015**

Chairman Masterson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as a proponent of SB 515. We are mindful of the challenge you are facing, as you seek an appropriate short-term solution that will allow us to continue our goal of offering a quality education to the students we serve.

We thank you for your hard work and the long hours you have spent on this legislation. We also want to thank you for listening to the concerns of those who have come before this committee previously, which is clearly demonstrated by providing that *all districts will be held harmless* and will not lose funding from their general operating budgets.

Further, we are grateful that you have honored the spirit of the CLASS Act, which was to provide *budget certainty* to school districts for two years while a new school finance formula is being developed.

The Blue Valley district remains committed to providing a quality education for our students and to being good stewards of taxpayer dollars. To that end, we want to work *with* you to develop a solid school finance formula that provides stability and appropriately accounts for the varying needs of students across our state.

We do appreciate the challenges you are facing and we continue to want to work *with* you to solve the K-12 challenges before us in a way that promotes the best outcomes for the students we serve.

We are happy to stand for any questions you may have at the appropriate time.

Presented by: Todd White, Incoming Superintendent