

March 23, 2016

## **Senate Ways and Means Committee**

### **Senate Bill 515**

Chairman Masterson and Members of the Committee,

I am Dr. Jim Hinson, Superintendent of the Shawnee Mission School District in Johnson County. I appear as a proponent on Senate Bill 515. This bill appears to be one of the few solutions that has been proposed to the current school-funding situation that attempts to address the Court's demands and holds all districts harmless from loss.

The Shawnee Mission School District desire a solution to the short-term issues related to equity. In addition, we hope the Legislature is working toward addressing a long-term solution that will ultimately satisfy the Supreme Court with a new funding formula.

The bill as written funds the Shawnee Mission School District at a level we anticipated based on the block grants implement in House Substitute for Senate Bill 7 passed in 2015. Senate Bill 515 seems to satisfy the equity issue by funding a fully equalized formula related to LOB equalization. Rather than the prior LOB equalization formula, Senate Bill 515 uses the capital outlay equalization formula to fund LOB equalization. We are not plaintiffs in the current lawsuit but it appears fully funding this equalization formula addresses court concerns that there should either be no equalization or fully funded equalization to fulfill statutory obligations.

The equalization solution in Senate Bill 515 may disappoint some who glimpsed brief hope of a windfall by some earlier potential solutions. This bill, however, appears to satisfy exactly what the block grant intended: to provide budget stability and funding as expected for one more year while a school finance formula is written. We support Senate Bill 515 as a one-time, one-year solution to allow the Legislature time to draft a new formula. The principals of Senate Bill 515 based on a more uniform formula for equalization, however, may be valuable to include in a new formula.

I am happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.