

Approved: 3-10-97
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Michael R. O'Neal at 3:30 p.m. on February 12, 1997 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Lloyd Stone - Excused
Representative Ralph Tanner - Excused

Committee staff present: Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
Cindy Wulfkuhle, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Mason
Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Board
Dale Rawson, U.S.D. 427
Walter Hays, Superintendent at Weskan
Rod Williams, Board Member at Rolla
Jerry Golden, Superintendent at Dexter
Jim Sutton, Superintendent at South Haven
Dennis Wilson, Superintendent of Labette County
Karen Bruning, Board Member at Herndon
Mike Wilson, Superintendent at Mill Creek Valley

Others attending: See attached list

Hearings on **HB 2141- School districts, non-resident pupils, count disallowed under school finance act & HB 2142 - School districts finance, low enrollment weighting affected by pupil residence**, were opened.

Representative Mason appeared before the committee as the sponsor of the proposed bills. He explained that **HB 2141** would allow negotiations with neighboring states so that the State of Kansas doesn't have to pay to educate out-of-state children. **HB 2142** would allow a student to be counted in the district in which the student attends, except the receiving district would be paid for the low enrollment weighting or the correlation weighting based on the lesser amount between the sending and receiving school. (Attachment 1)

Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Board, appeared before the committee as an opponent of the bills. **HB 2141** would cause a loss of revenue to school districts who are following a tradition of open enrollment at the borders. **HB 2142** would also cause a loss of revenue to some schools when receiving a lower weighting cost than they currently receive. (Attachment 2)

Dale Rawson, Superintendent of U.S.D. 427, appeared before the committee as an opponent of **HB 2141**. He believes that it would damage not only the school but also the economy of communities and other border communities. (Attachment 3)

Walter Hays, Superintendent at Weskan, appeared before the committee as an opponent of the bills. He was concerned that there are still "deep scars from unification" and that these bills would create another blood bath. (Attachment 4)

Rod Williams, Board Member at Rolla, appeared before the committee as an opponent of **HB 2141**. His school receives 25 out-of-state students and is concerned that the school would not have the funding to exist if the school no longer receives funding for out-of-state students. (Attachment 5)

Jerry Golden, Superintendent at Dexter, appeared before the committee as an opponent of both bills. He stated that financially, his district can bear the loss of 2 students, but the major concern should be the kids. (Attachment 6)

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, Room 519-S Statehouse, at 3:30 p.m. on February 12, 1997.

Jim Sutton, Superintendent at South Haven, appeared before the committee as an opponent of **HB 2141**. He explained that children who cross the boarder are attending school in Kansas because their parents work here. (Attachment 7)

Dennis Wilson, Superintendent of Labette County, appeared before the committee as an opponent of **HB 2141**. He believes that funding for non-Kansas resident students is offset by trade, taxes, and business brought into Kansas by the parents and students in question. (Attachment 8)

Karen Bruning, Board Member at Herndon, appeared before the committee as an opponent of the bills. She was concerned about the financial impact of the bills. (Attachment 9)

Mike Wilson, Superintendent at Mill Creek Valley, appeared before the committee as an opponent of **HB 2142**. He doesn't believe that the bill takes into consideration the fact that it costs the same to educate a non-resident student as it does to educate a resident student. (Attachment 10)

Hearings on **HB 2141 & HB 2142**, were closed.

The committee meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 1997.

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: February 12, 1997

NAME	REPRESENTING
Brilla Highfill Scott	USA
Val de Fever	USD 446 Independence
Mark Callman	KA-TR
Mike Wilson	USD # 329
Roger Rankin	USD 283
Gary Haper	USD # 249.
Jimmy Burch	USD # 494
Scott Hills	USD 286
Mick Pond	USD 286
Don Rezac	Kaw Valley USD 321
Jim Koftaw	USD # 381 - Spearville
PAUL W KENDALL	USD 424 - BOE MULLINVILLE
Linda Kay Kendall	USD 424 Mullinville
Lea Minchew	Mullinville
Robert E. Minchew	USD 424 Mullinville
Quill Hays	USD 242 Weskan
Richard William	USD 217 ROLLA
Bill Light	" " "
Jim Allen	KFLC

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: Feb 12, 1997

NAME	REPRESENTING
Patrick McAuley	KFC/KRC
Harshel Lee	cit.
Kenneth W. Woods	USD #365 Hamlet
Denise Apt	U.S.A.
Sue Chase	KNEA
Dennis M. Wilson	USD 506 Labette Co.
Jacque Dakes	SQE
Karen Bruning	USD 317 Herndon KS
Tom Van Wert	USD 317 Herndon, KS
Ann Arnold	USD 434 Caney KS
Tom Roberts	USD 436 Caney
Sydney Shinn	USD 436 Caney
Sherry Lockhart	USD #436 Caney
STEVE FIRKINS	USD 463 W DALL
Robert Herleg	USD 360 CALDWELL, KS.
Jerry Seldin	USD 471 Dexter, KS
James A. Sutton	USD 509 South Haven, KS
Alan Rawson	USD 427 Belleville KS
Diane Gierstad	Wichita Public Schools

WILLIAM G. (BILL) MASON
 REPRESENTATIVE, 75TH DISTRICT
 BUTLER COUNTY



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
 REPRESENTATIVES

February 12, 1997

HB 2141

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
 CHAIRMAN: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 VICE CHAIRMAN: JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC
 DEVELOPMENT
 MEMBER: BUSINESS, COMMERCE AND LABOR
 FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS
 BOARD MEMBER: KANSAS TECHNOLOGY
 ENTERPRISE CORPORATION

Chairman O'Neal and Members of the Education Committee:

I greatly appreciate this opportunity to appear before you today to testify in support of **HB 2141**. This bill was drawn as a result of information received during our 1996 Special Committee on School Finance.

We found that 412 K-12 students are coming across our state lines every day to attend Kansas schools. These are students that reside out-of-state, not students that have moved in from out-of-state or are placed by social service or public agencies. Under Kansas law, school districts are authorized to charge tuition for out-of-state students. No distinction is made between a non-resident student who resides in another Kansas School district and one who resides in another state. These students are counted in the receiving district's enrollment for purposes of the school finance plan. Any student tuition received by a school district is treated as a deduction in computing the district's state aid entitlement. There is no economic incentive for the district to charge tuition and the common practice is not to charge tuition.

Surrounding state's laws vary on out-of-state tuition. Nebraska and Colorado laws are somewhat similar to our law but Missouri and Oklahoma require tuition and do not pay for the students out-of-state revenues. While I do not have a fiscal note on this bill, a conservative estimate is a savings of over \$2,000,000. The bill would disallow a school district from counting out-of-state students for purposes of the school finance formula. The other states that border Kansas have a responsibility to educate their children just as Kansas has that responsibility for our own. We must be fiscally responsible if we are to improve educational opportunities for our children.

I would recommend that we have negotiations with our neighbors on a reciprocal agreement but we do not have that agreement and we never will as long as we continue to pay out-of-state funds for out-of-state children.

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WILLIAM G. (BILL) MASON
 REPRESENTATIVE, 75TH DISTRICT
 BUTLER COUNTY



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
 REPRESENTATIVES

February 12, 1997

HB 2142

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
 CHAIRMAN: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 VICE CHAIRMAN: JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC
 DEVELOPMENT
 MEMBER: BUSINESS, COMMERCE AND LABOR
 FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS
 BOARD MEMBER: KANSAS TECHNOLOGY
 ENTERPRISE CORPORATION

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for scheduling a hearing on **HB 2142** which addresses the counting of students for payment utilizing the School Finance formula. This bill was introduced because of information received by our Special Committee on School Finance this Summer and Fall. It would allow a student to be counted in the district in which the student attends, except the receiving district would be paid for the low enrollment weighting or the correlation weighting based on the lesser amount between the sending and the receiving district. Currently, the student is counted in the school district the student attended for all weighting factors. In the 1995-96 school year, Kansas had 10,219 in-state out-of-district students.

There is a fiscal note. The estimated impact of this bill would be a savings of \$4,506,622.

We presently have a system where most school districts allow student transfers for many reasons. There are many districts that welcome those students with open arms. In many cases the State pays significant additional dollars for those transferring students which leaves fewer resources for the rest of the children in the State. While I have no problem with parents and children having a choice of schools, it should not cost the state additional funding.

While there are few incentives in the School Finance Formula, there is certainly an incentive for some districts to recruit students from other districts. I am not indicating that any district is actually recruiting students but the potential exists. Obviously if one district gains, another has to lose students and income.

We must look within the education system and effect efficiency at every level we can find. This statute will save 4.5 million which could put 15 computers in each school district each year. This is an issue of fairness for every student in the state. If a school district does not want to accept a student at the value of the home school, they do not have to allow the transfer. It will not cost the receiving district any amount if they do not accept the student.

I urge you to pass **HB 2142** favorable.

KANSAS
ASSOCIATION



OF
SCHOOL
BOARDS

1420 S.W. Arrowhead Rd, Topeka, Kansas 66604
913-273-3600

TO: House Committee on Education
FROM: Mark Tallman, Director of Governmental Relations
DATE: February 11, 1997

RE: **Testimony on:**
H.B. 2141 - Nonresidents of Kansas; School Finance
H.B. 2142 - Student Residence; Impact on Low Enrollment Weighting

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

KASB does not have a specific policy position on how students who are not residents of Kansas or residents of the district they attend should be counted for school finance purposes. We appear as opponents of both H.B. 2141 and H.B. 2142 because we do not believe that the passage of this legislation would be in the best interest of the students and citizens of Kansas.

Estimates from the State Department of Education indicate that Kansas school districts enroll a number of nonresident students, just as school districts in other states enroll many Kansas students. This practice seems to work well for Kansas and the surrounding states. If our schools are not allowed to count nonresident students for state aid, it certainly creates a disincentive to enroll these students. This in turn could result in other states taking similar action against Kansas students, which would increase enrollment in Kansas districts and offset any saving to the state.

At a minimum, H.B. 2141 would result in a loss of revenue to school districts who are simply following in a long tradition of open enrollment at our borders. That, in turn, will likely have a negative impact on the quality of education experienced by the students who are residents of those districts. We believe that outweighs the only possible positive outcome: the ability to spread a limited number of dollars throughout the rest of the system.

In the same manner, H.B. 2142 is contrary to the idea that a district's costs are impacted by size due to economies of scale and other factors. There may be reasons to adjust the weighting formula, but we can think of no reason based on the idea that two students sitting side by side in a classroom cost the district different amounts based on whether or not they are residents of the districts.

Last week, this committee expressed a general desire to allow students to choose to go to districts other than their own if that is what their families want. Some members suggested it was wrong for school districts to refuse to accommodate transportation requests simply because they might lose money. But both of these bills will reduce the incentive for districts to enroll nonresident students simply because the state desires to save money. The impact of these bills will be to punish financially those districts which have, for whatever reason, attracted students from neighboring districts, which will hurt the quality of education for their residents and reduce choices for nonresidents.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Attachment 2

REPUBLIC COUNTY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 427

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Dale V. Rawson, Superintendent
(913) 527-5621
Edward Fuhrman, Belleville High School Principal
(913)-527-2281
Jim King, Belleville Middle School Principal
(913) 527-5669
Donald Westphal, East Elementary Principal
(913) 527-2390

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Munden & Republic

1205 19th, P.O. Box 469
Belleville, Kansas 66935-0469
Telephone (913) 527-5621 * FAX (913-527-5375)

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Kathryn Johnson, Clerk
Marion Lesovsky, Treasurer

February 12, 1997

TO: House Education Committee
RE: House Bill 2141

BY: Dr. Dale V. Rawson
Superintendent of Schools
Republic County Unified School District No. 427
Belleville, Kansas

Representative O'Neal and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express opposition to House Bill 2141 as it is currently proposed. While my testimony concerns that bill, it is more relevant when considered in conjunction with another bill which is currently pending before this committee and the Kansas Legislature. With your indulgence, I would like to cite this bill in my statement of opposition of House Bill 2141.

Last week this committee heard testimony about House Bill 2098 introduced by Representative Aurand who represents a portion of our school district. Stated simply, this bill proposes to allow parents to initiate action to let their children to attend schools which are closer to their home than are the schools in their school district of residence and permits any such receiving school district the authority to provide transportation for these students. It seems to me that this bill attempts to address the issue of parental choice in the matter of education for children.

House Bill 2141 appears to state just the opposite of House Bill 2098. As a school district on the Nebraska border, we both accept students from Nebraska and also have some of our students attend Nebraska schools under a mutually agreeable contract between the parents and both school districts. Under the current statutes, both the Nebraska schools and Kansas schools receive state aid from their respective states for those students who attend. Should House Bill 2141 be passed in its current form, we would no longer receive any monetary remuneration for accepting these out of state students. I see three problems with this.

1. First, unless we receive some form of funding for these students, our district taxpayers could rightly question why we were providing education to these students.

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2. Second and more importantly, unless Kansas continues to cooperate with neighboring states in the education of students, near or on the border, we can expect that those states, too, will disallow our students the opportunity to attend. We currently have one family in our school district that resides 27.5 miles from our schools and only 12.6 miles from the schools of Superior, Nebraska. We have recognized the disadvantage of this distance from our school and have worked with Superior under a contract of mutual consent to provide education for the children of this family. Again, going back to House Bill 2098, it appears we are recognizing and accommodating the intent of that bill but may not be able to continue doing so if House Bill 2141 becomes law.
3. Third and finally, it appears to me that House Bill 2141 suffers from economic myopia. We struggle in our community to retain business. Several of our major employers actively recruit employees from the border communities in Nebraska. Occasionally these employees will bring their children with them when they come to work. As infants, the children are in day care and some employees choose to enroll their children in our schools when they reach school age. All major employers in Belleville recognize the educational benefit provided to the children of their employees and allow employees time off work to attend school functions which occur during the work day.

While I don't know the extent of the economic impact, it seems logical to believe that employees who drive in to work from small rural communities on the Nebraska side of the border also contribute to the economy of our region. They help keep business in the community by providing employees. They also spend a portion of their pay check in our community by shopping after their shift is over and before their children are released from school.

As written, House Bill 2141 has great potential to adversely affect not only our school district but also the economy of our community and other border communities. If I understood correctly, some of the testimony of House Bill 2098 addressed the issue of importance of children attending school in the communities where the parents worked. I hope this committee recognizes that economic impact and ask you to not forward House Bill 2141 as its impact on our economy would be negative.

In closing, I have also included a second sheet with comments that addresses some questions of the impact of both House Bill 2098 and House Bill 2141 upon the stability of school district enrollment in affected school districts. Since that information is not exclusively related to House Bill 2141, I will not ask the committee to listen to my concerns; however, should any committee members have questions or comments, now or in the future, I would be happy to discuss those concerns with you.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address this committee. Do you have any questions?

WESKAN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 242
WALTER NEILL HAYS, SUPERINTENDENT

LOCATION

Weskan is located four miles from the Kansas/Colorado State Line. We are halfway between Hays, Kansas and Colorado Springs, Colorado.

We are rural. We are few. But we feel we are valuable. We have graduates who are farmers, ranchers, doctors, lawyers, and everything in-between. On the average, about 90 percent of our students continue their education after high school graduation.

STATE LINE BOUNDARY (?)

There are no noticeable boundaries to mark the state line, not even a north-south road or a barbed-wire fence. There is only a slight jog in Highway 40 as it stretches east to Topeka, 350 miles away. We live side by side sharing their Mountain Time Zone.

If you ask a patron of the district if a student was from Kansas or Colorado, they would probably have to pause and think where the student lived. This is the only distinction you can make to tell them apart. They have become a part of our community. And in most cases a part of the family. Colorado students don't drop out after enrollment count in September, they are considered a valuable part of our school district.

TAXES

Colorado families own property in Kansas, shop in Kansas, and work in Kansas. They pay property taxes, sales tax, and income tax.

Colorado families work in Kansas, worship in Kansas, marry in Kansas, raise their families in Kansas, and are buried in Kansas.

HISTORY

Over ten years ago a small Colorado School just across the border closed. The Colorado students, who lost their school, came to Weskan School. Local funding was not a problem at that time. They were our neighbors and we knew how important we are to each other. School funds were raised locally before the state wide mill levy, and local money paid for the Colorado students' education.

Some of the Colorado students live closer to the school than some of the Kansas students. Colorado students might not sleep in Kansas, but

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they are important to our school. They have become a part of our growing community.

FUNDING

Funding was not a problem for these students, before the state-wide mill levy, when it was local funds that paid for their education. They are our neighbors and we know how important we are to each other.

The state wide mill levy has changed some of the ways we look at things, but we don't want it to harm our school. Currently, we have 22 Colorado students out of 113.5 full time equivalency enrollment. This funding accounts for 19 percent of our total school budget. It would be devastating to our school and community to take these funds from our district.

NO MAN IS AN ISLAND

Seventeenth-century sage John Donne once wrote: "No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less ...; any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

PROBLEM AREAS

What will happen to Kansas students attending school in other states? What about Kansas funding for foreign exchange students? What about Kansas funding for students that drop-out of school after the September enrollment date?

In 1966, we found that closing a school through consolidation does not save any money. There are still very deep scars from unification in the mid-sixties. We hope we don't have another blood bath like those times.

Unified School District
204 Van Buren
Rolla KS 67954
(316) 593-4344

Re: House Bill 2141

The Rolla Schools appreciate this opportunity to comment on the potential impact proposed legislation like HB 2141 would have upon our school district and upon our community in general. Twenty Five (25) of our 175.5 students come to us from just inside the Oklahoma border. These students travel eight (8) miles to our schools and would have to travel thirty-two (32) miles to go to the nearest Oklahoma school.

The obvious fact regarding why these students attend the Rolla Schools is that we **are** their neighborhood school. USD 217 is the closest school district to where these folks live. It is also obvious that these parents and students possess a sense of community with our town and our school. We are **their** town and **their** school. These parents and students much prefer the small school atmosphere that we provide.

For the last several decades these Oklahoma families have been sending their students to our school. It works well and it represents a deep value that is unique to the smaller rural community and school district. Needless to say, if funding for these students was to be withheld, it would deal a severe blow to our district.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rodney L. Williams
House Education
2-12-97
Attachment 5

USD 217

Student Statistics

1996-97 School Year

Out-of-State Students	25
USD 217 students attending other districts	5
Students from other districts attending USD	8
Number of At-Risk Students	79
Total Full Time Equilivent (FTE) Students	175.5
Percent of At-Risk Students	45.0%

Ten (10) Year History

SCHOOL TERM	STUDENT FTE	LEGAL	LEGAL	STRUCTIONA FTE	STRUCTIONA Head Count	INSTRUCTIONAL	Adm	SALARY COSTS
		GENERAL FUND BUDGET	SUPPLEME GENERAL F BUDGET			STAFF SALARY COSTS		
1997-98								
1996-97	175.5	1,366,906	341,726	21.3	22	822,517	2.90	183,807
1995-96	193.0	1,442,423	360,606	20.8	21	820,013	2.90	182,323
1994-95	197.5	1,395,000	348,750	20.8	21	823,263	2.90	179,453
1993-94	196.5	1,406,880	351,720	21.8		879,280	3.90	205,074
1992-93	207.3	1,461,240	290,500	21.8		750,781	4.00	197,093
1991-92	198.0	1,651,302		21.1		714,299	3.00	146,026
1990-91	206.0	1,585,508		21.1		695,211	2.50	128,571
1989-90	215.0	1,529,715		22.3		665,700	2.50	103,881
1988-89	205.0	1,384,484		22.7		665,700	2.50	102,974
1987-88	216.0	1,302,580		24.6		636,210	2.00	95,989
1986-87	212.5	1,276,135		21.5		647,914	2.00	75,674

1996-97 Legal Maximum General Fund Budget - USD217

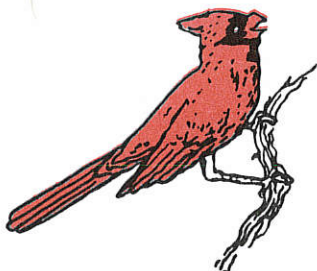
1/17/97
Audited Enrollment

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Audited Enroll. 9/20/95	FTE Enroll. 9/20/96	Enroll. Decline FTE	Low & Correlation Weighted FTE	Vocational Contact Hours	Vocational Weighted FTE	Bilingual Contact Hours	Bilingual Weighted FTE	At-Risk Students	At-Risk Weighted FTE	New Fac. FTE	New Fac. Weighted FTE	Trans. Weighted FTE	Ft. Riley Downsizing Weighted FTE
193.0	175.5	3.9	164.7	54.3	4.5	315.9	10.5	76	3.8	0.0	0.0	12.3	0.0
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22						
Total Weighted FTE	Computed General Fund	Adopted General Fund	96-97 Legal General Fund Budget	LOB Authorized Percent	Computed LOB	Adopted LOB	Legal LOB						
375.2	1,368,730	1,439,136	1,368,730	25.00%	342,183	359,784	342,183						

Column

- 16 Computed General Fund = Total Weighted FTE (Col. 15) times \$3,648
- 18 1996-97 Legal General Fund Budget = minimum of Computed General Fund (Col. 16) and Adopted General Fund (Col. 17)
- 20 Computed Local Option Budget = LOB authorized percent (Col. 19) times Legal General Fund Budget (Col. 18)
- 22 Legal LOB = minimum of Computed LOB (Col. 20) or Adopted LOB (Col. 21)

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Dexter Unified District 471

Telephone (316) 876-5415
Fax Number (316) 876-5417
P.O. Box 97 • Dexter, Kansas 67038

BOARD MEMBERS

Jack Drake
Rich Helsel
Bob Hoyt
Jack Massey
Mark Neal
Kathy Rush
Jennifer Pudden

ADMINISTRATION

JERRY GOLDEN
Superintendent

ROBERT G. HOLMES
Principal

DONNA M. BERKLEY
Secretary/Clerk

House Education Committee

Kansas State Legislature

RE: HB 2141 - Non-Kansas residents not counted for school finance.

Dexter is a small district located in central Cowley County. We form a geographical triangle with Winfield and Arkansas City. We are a low enrollment weighted district while our neighbors represent the so called second enrollment category, those between 1,850 and 9,000 students. Our enrollment is just shy of 200 students.

USD 471, being a border county, does attract out-of-state students. We have two families who send a total of five students. In my conversations with each family it was not the proximity of Dexter, but a quality of education they were seeking for their kids.

Their stories as to why they sent their youngsters to Dexter had similarities:

1. Their Oklahoma school lacked discipline.
2. Oklahoma teacher certification is less than Kansas.
3. Each was told not to expect their children to be at the top of the class.
4. The Dexter schools made an immediate difference.
5. Both praised the elementary staff at Dexter.
6. Neither family considered added mileage to be a problem if it meant their kids were going to be well educated.

I asked each to do some mileage calculations. One family has youngsters currently involved in extra curricular activities, the other has not reached that level yet. One family estimated an additional 60,000 miles, the other 32,350 and their oldest is but a sixth grader. Both called it time and distance well spent.

That is but one side of the story, sort of a human interest side depicted by caring parents who want the best for their children.

The other side of the story is the financial side.

What effect would passage of this bill have on finances at Dexter?

1. A financial loss of \$34,291.
2. Two very fine families as district supporters.
3. Five students that we are preparing for life.

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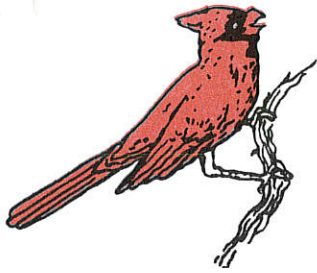
Attachment 6

It should be pointed out that this \$34,291 cannot be considered a total drain on the State of Kansas. Both families indicated they do virtually all their purchasing in Kansas from groceries to cars, from machinery to medical care.

I could continue the dialogue, but there is a bottom line to all of this. It makes little difference financially to our district because next year, there will only be two out-of-state students since the other family is moving into our district. Financially, we can bear the loss of 2 students. The bottom line is simply what is right for kids. If those parents believe and the students believe in what we are doing, then we have completed our mission, that of educating future members of our society regardless of who is paying for it. If we fail in this mission, we all pay a proportionate share.

Thank you.

Jerry Golden
Superintendent
Dexter USD 471



Dexter Unified District 471

Telephone (316) 876-5415
Fax Number (316) 876-5417
P.O. Box 97 • Dexter, Kansas 67038

BOARD MEMBERS

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Rich Helsel
Bob Hoyt
Jack Massey
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ADMINISTRATION

JERRY GOLDEN
Superintendent

ROBERT G. HOLMES
Principal

DONNA M. BERKLEY
Secretary/Clerk

State of Kansas
Committee on Education
RE: HB 2142 - Non Resident Student Weighting

Dexter is a small district located in central Cowley County. We form a geographical triangle with Winfield and Arkansas City. We are a low enrollment weighted district while our neighbors represent the so called second enrollment category, those between 1,850 and 9,000 students. Our enrollment is just shy of 200 students.

I welcome the opportunity to address the Education Committee on this most important issue.

How important is this issue to USD #471?

I truly feel we are bordering on a life or death situation for a district that is recognized as a strong provider of a quality education for students, not only from our district, but for those who come to us from out-of-district.

We have 41 out-of-district students at Dexter. Those 41 students represent over 21% of our student population. We may have one of the highest rates of out-of-district student ratios in the state. The question of "why so many" needs to be addressed. Apparently, there is a perception among those who come that Dexter has something to offer.

What does Dexter offer?

1. Low student/teacher ratio.
2. A safe environment - both school and town.
3. An experienced staff with little turnover.
4. Caring teachers who truly place children as a priority.
5. Technology.
6. An extracurricular program that is very competitive.
7. A 100% graduation rate over the last few years.
8. State assessment scores that rank above the entire state.

We do offer things that back up the mentioned perception. We are proud of the fact that we have the number of out-of-district students that come here. It truly says something about our system. It is a good marriage between local and non-local students. Both groups are offered advantages created by the State funding formula.

The issue before us is being fostered by, in most part, schools from the so-called second enrollment category who feel that small schools are getting "all the gravy" so to speak.

Let us look at some facts and figures that are on the accompanying appendix.

1. Low enrollment districts represent 245 of the 304 districts in Kansas.
2. Low enrollment districts educate 35% of Kansas students. More than any other category.
3. 49% of the low enrollment districts have LOB's. If we are getting such a disproportionment amount of the money, why do nearly half the districts have an LOB? Second enrollment category districts show 54% with an LOB. (49% to 54%)
4. Low enrollment districts have 17.1% of LOB's statewide. Second enrollment districts have 17.6%.
5. The average LOB per pupil is \$261 for the low enrollment group vs. \$267 per pupil for second category districts.
6. The average LOB for low enrollment districts is 3.9 mills vs. 5.2 for second category districts.

The final figure I would offer is that next year we will receive \$8,366 in increased funding if the increase is \$22 and if our enrollment holds. If we plow the entire amount into teacher raises and hold the line on all other expenditures, our teachers would get a \$138 raise plus the normal salary schedule increment. I do not think this shows great wealth.

Currently, we at Dexter rank above the State average with regards to base pay, 7.8% above the average to be exact. Due to this, we are able to attract and retain quality teachers. The average tenure in our district is 12.8 years. Only two new staff members have been needed to fill vacancies over the last 4 years. The question must be asked, "what will happen to our staff if funding is lost?"

Please let me offer some other facts and figures to show how the loss of weighting for our out-of-district students would affect USD 471. The lion's share of our out-of-district students come from Winfield and Arkansas City, so for simplicity sake, I will weight them all the same.

1. **\$131,328 in lost revenue for weighting.**
2. **9.5% of our general fund budget would be lost.**
3. **It would take 22 mills of LOB to replace.**
4. **Our new monies for '97-'98 would decrease by \$800.**

How many institutions could suffer a 9.5% budget decrease and continue to exist? I would hope that our Board of Education would adopt an LOB to make up the difference, but we all know how tenuous LOB's are. Plus, what good would it do the patrons of our district to get mill levy relief at the State level only to have the millage raised at home?

What would be the end result of the loss of \$131,328 to our budget?

1. No Title I math, an addition we are discussing.
2. Stoppage of all technological improvements.
3. No raises for teachers, administration or classified staff.
4. Teacher cuts.
5. Program cut backs.
6. An LOB to survive.

As I contemplate the possibility of this process occurring, I cannot help but think of "school choice". Choice has been a watchword of legislators for several years now. Two questions come to mind:

1. Do we turn away those who want to come to get a better education and just take care of our own?
2. Wouldn't it benefit our neighbors, mainly Winfield and Arkansas City, to recruit our kids?

In conclusion and to come directly to the point, I am fearful of our future. I know this issue is surfacing because larger schools see students leaving their districts to attend smaller schools. They feel betrayed both from the loss of students and the perception that they are getting ripped off financially. I fear the political process. I am not so naive as to think we in sparsely populated areas have the clout to prevent something like this from happening.

I am fearful for our kids, our dedicated teachers, our schools, and our small communities. I agree that schools in the second enrollment category need additional operating expenses. At the same time, I am angry with them. They have sat in groups such as the South Central Kansas Education Service Center and the ad hoc committee headed by the Shawnee Mission District and said "they did not want to increase their funding at the expense of smaller districts". They speak from both sides of their mouths.

I am fearful because I am but one individual who feels pretty helpless. All I can do is to implore this group to put kids first, those kids who reside in those 245 low enrollment districts that represent 35% of the student population in the State of Kansas.

Thank you.

Jerry Golden
Superintendent
Dexter USD 471

FACT SHEET
USD 471
DEXTER, KS

41 Out-of-district students, mostly from Winfield and Arkansas City

21% - over one fifth of our students are out-of-district

100% graduation rate

22 full and half time teachers

2 new teachers over the past four years

12.8 average teacher tenure

\$8,366 - projected new monies for '97-'98 based on a \$22 increase

\$131,328 - potential lost revenue if bill passes

9.5% of general revenue budget loss

22 mills of LOB to replace

\$800 loss of new monies if bill passes

POSSIBLE RESULTS

1. Eliminate all raises.
2. Halt technological improvements
3. Drop plans for Title I math.
4. Teacher RIF's.
5. Program cuts.
6. Would need to pass a 22 mill LOB to replace lost funds to operate as we do today.

COMPARISON OF SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT CATEGORIES

	Enrollment Categories		
	Enrollment Over 9,000	Enrollment 1,850 - 9,000	Enrollment Under 1,850
Number of Districts	7	52	245
Percent of KS Students	33.2%	31.8%	34.9%
Enrollment Weighting	Correlation	Correlation	Low Enrollment
Funding Provided by Enrollment Weighting	\$4.8 million (Step 1) \$19.2 million (Full)	\$4.6 million (Step 1) \$18.4 million (Full)	\$218.3 million
Enrollment Weighting Per Pupil	\$33 (Step 1) \$132 (Full)	\$33 (Step 1) \$132 (Full)	\$1,412 (Average)
Average Budget Per Pupil (Includes base, weighting and LOB)	\$4,726	\$4,148	\$6,167
Districts spending more than \$4,500 per pupil. (Percent of Category)	7 (100%)	16 (38.1%)	237 (96.7%)
Percent of Districts with Local Option Budgets	100%	53.8%	48.9%
Funding Provided by Local Option Budgets	\$124.1 million	\$32.7 million	\$31.9 million
Percent of Total LOB Expenditures Statewide	66.5%	17.6%	17.1%
Average LOB Per Pupil	\$886	\$267	\$261
Average LOB Levy	16.2 mills	5.25 mills	3.9 mills

Based on 1995-96 School District Budgets.

Correlation Weighting shows first year impact and the full amount which is scheduled to be implemented in four years.

Concerning House Bill 2141

My name is James Sutton. I am the superintendent and elementary principal at South Haven Unified School District Number 509 in South Haven, Kansas. I wish to begin by expressing my appreciation to each of the House Education Committee members for taking the time to review my concerns with regards to House Bill 2141.

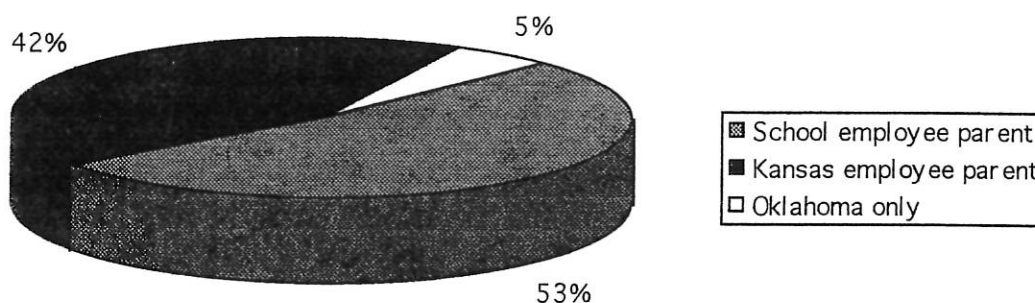
South Haven is a small town of about four hundred and twenty-five (425) people and is located about forty-five (45) miles directly south of Wichita. It is only five (5) miles north of the Kansas/Oklahoma border. As one might expect, South Haven School has several students that commute from their homes in Oklahoma to our school system.

On September 20th, 1996, South Haven School's official full time equivalent (F.T.E.) enrollment for the 1996-97 school year was 252.5. That F.T.E. count was increased by eighteen (18) because of students who lived in Oklahoma and commuted to South Haven School. Since two of these students are enrolled in kindergarten, the actual head count was nineteen (19).

I would like the committee to take a brief look at the make-up of those students. Ten (10) of the students have a parent that is employed by the school district or our special education, interlocal. They come to school each and every day with their parent: a parent who pays taxes, shops, and works in

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Kansas, who is proud of our school system and wants their child to be educated in a school that is made better by their hard work and professional efforts. Of the remaining nine (9) students, eight (8) have a parent or parents who work in Kansas and/or own land in Kansas. They, too, pay taxes, shop, operate businesses, plant and harvest crops, and spend a healthy percentage of their lives within Kansas' borders. In fact, of the nineteen (19) students at South Haven, twelve (12) or 63% of the students have parents who own land and/or taxable property in Kansas.



What does a Kansas education mean to these students and their parents? Initially, it is important to realize that at least twenty six (26) percent of the students attending South Haven School from Oklahoma had one or both parents who graduated from South Haven School. But beyond this, I would like to take a moment and share the story of two of our Oklahoma parents. They have three children. The second began attending South Haven School when she was a third grader. She is now preparing for medical school at Oklahoma University. She is an honor student and has tested out of her

first year of Spanish as well as an initial math requirement. Her father believes his daughter's academic success is credited to the school system at South Haven, and he is a strong supporter of the South Haven School and Kansas schools in general.

He and his family do reside in Oklahoma. However, both he and his wife own property in Kansas, and he farms here. He purchased a tractor for \$50,000 in a neighboring Kansas town and buys parts in that same town at an annual average amount of \$5,000. We stores the grain he harvests in elevators in South Haven or Wichita. His youngest daughter has gone to South Haven School since she started kindergarten. She is now in the seventh grade. She, too, is a promising hard-working student with lofty goals and a promising future.

Please do not misinterpret my intentions. I am not attempting to compare Oklahoma Schools or any other state's school systems to our own. Often students cross the borders of our neighboring states and go to school in Kansas simply because the school is closer. I believe there are many Kansas students who do the reverse and attend schools outside of the Kansas borders primarily for geographic reasons. It is, however, important to recognize that there are benefits associated with the positive image our out-of-state "visitors" spread with regards to Kansas schools and Kansas living.

In considering our current and past students from Oklahoma, I am proud of those who have graduated and will graduate from U.S.D. 509 in

South Haven, Kansas. They are good students and good citizens who are representing us well. And I dare say that these students are equally proud to be South Haven and Kansas students and/or graduates.

I would ask this committee and the Kansas legislature to please remember that whether children find it necessary to enter our borders for an education or leave our borders for an education, they are people first, Americans second, and Kansans or Missourians or Oklahomans third. They may not be Kansas voters, but they are more often than not Kansas taxpayers and Kansas supporters. We wish to maintain an open door to the small percentage of students from other states, because they do not enter our doors with a state label. They enter our doors as neighbors who live just down the road from us. They enter as students whose parents are life long friends and people with whom we work side by side.

I ask that this House Education Committee support us in this effort, and I encourage you not to support House Bill 2141.

LABETTE COUNTY
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 506

BOARD OF EDUCATION

DENNIS W. WILSON, Ed.D.
Superintendent

STAN WILKINS
Asst. Superintendent

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To: House Committee on Education
From: Dennis W. Wilson
Date: 12 February, 1997
Re: H.B. 2141 Non-Kansas Residents

Labette County U.S.D. 506 has grave concerns about and is strongly opposed to the passage of H.B. 2141 (non-Kansas resident students).

Labette County U.S.D. 506 has 32 students attending our school from Oklahoma, which if pulled from our funding would create a loss of more than \$79,000 from our general fund budget. These 32 students are scattered through grades K-12 which would not allow us to decrease staff if we were to deny them access to our school.

We recognize the difficulty of arguing that non-Kansas resident students should be funded in Kansas schools. However, please consider the following:

1. U.S.D. 506 district lines share 20 miles with the Oklahoma state line.
2. In some cases, the parents work for the school district. Many of the parents of these 32 students either work in Kansas (our communities) or own land and farm in our communities. In some cases, the parents live on the south side of the road which serves as the Kansas/Oklahoma line and own land and farm on the Kansas side.
3. The trade area of the small towns in our district does not end with the state line. It goes deep into Oklahoma. Therefore, many of these people come into the district and its towns to trade.
4. In accordance with Kansas residency laws, the parents could send their children to a grandparent or a relative in our district and claim school residency. However, they prefer not to do that because of creating questionable tactics on their part or creating hardships on them, their children, and the other family members with whom the students would reside.
5. The quality of the educational program in Labette County U.S.D. 506 encourages many of these students to attend our schools and in many cases our schools are considerably closer to their homes than the school they would be required to attend if we did not accept them.
6. After attending schools in Kansas and graduating from high school, many of these students choose to stay in Kansas, earn their living, and raise their families in this state.

It is our opinion that state funding for non-Kansas resident students is more than offset by the trade, taxes, and business brought into Kansas by the parents and students in question. The loss of the state revenue would have a very negative effect on our district budget. We encourage you to oppose the provisions of H.B. 2141 which would eliminate non-Kansas students from the funding count.

Representative O'Neil, I would like to thank you and the members of the House Education Committee for the opportunity to testify on HB 2141 and HB 2142. My name is Karen Bruning, and I am a board member for USD #317, a position I have held for 11 years. I would like to introduce Pam VanVleet, President of the Board of Education for USD #317. We are here to testify in opposition to HB 2141 and HB 2142.

Herndon Unified School District #317 is a small and rural district in Northwest Kansas. The District's enrollment has fluctuated between 100 and 110 over the past four years. By most standards, Herndon would be considered an economically depressed area. As an example, slightly less than 50% of the students qualify for free or reduced meals. Academically, Herndon students have consistently performed well above the state and national ranking on nationally normed tests. To illustrate this please consider that over the past 3 years 26 Herndon students have taken the A.C.T. college entrance exam and 23 have scored at the national average or better. The national average is 20 and Herndon graduates are averaging 24. With the exception of one student as far back as anyone can remember, Herndon has enjoyed a 100% graduation rate for those students indigenous to Herndon. Over 70% of the graduates have pursued

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post secondary education. Simply stated, the per cent of Herndon students pursuing post secondary education exceeds the national graduation rate from high school. Violent acts against teachers and students are non-existent. There have been no drug or alcohol related misconduct referrals in years, and in fact, our single administrator jokingly refers to himself as the Maytag repairman, as students are seldom sent to his office for misconduct referrals. The school district is the focal point of the community and the general populace is very proud of the achievements of its students. Geographically the district is located only six miles from the Nebraska border. The overwhelming number of students are bused to Herndon with the length of routes ranging from 15 to 30 minutes one way. In addition, we have developed a hard earned reputation for reaching out to students that have special needs and are classified students at-risk. In fact, we have been contacted by the judicial system on numerous occasions and asked to help students that have failed in other districts. With that brief introduction I would like to speak specifically to HB 2141 and HB 2142.

As we understand it, HB 2141 would eliminate funding for out-of-state students. As previously noted, Herndon is located only 6 miles from the

Nebraska border. Herndon has a total of four students this year that would be affected by HB 2141 by meeting this out-of-state classification. The parents of these children are farmers and they farm in both the States of Kansas and Nebraska. They are taxpayers in both states. Until recently, one of our teachers resided in Nebraska and brought her three children to Herndon to attend school. She is a taxpayer in Kansas. These people regularly shop in Kansas, seek entertainment in Kansas and in general conduct much of their business in Kansas. In sum they generate taxable revenue for the State of Kansas. These people are not receiving "a free ride" in our state. If they were required to pay tuition in Kansas they would not attend school in Herndon and they would be required to drive 5 or 6 times farther than they presently do in order to attend a school in Nebraska. The financial impact in Herndon would be significant as we would lose approximately \$40,000 in revenue this year and \$40,000 last year.

We would also like to speak in opposition to HB 2142. As we understand it, this bill would prevent smaller districts from receiving their weighted amount for students transferring from larger districts. As mentioned previously, Herndon in the past few years has developed the

reputation of being able to help at-risk and special needs students. In the past few years we have accepted secondary students that have been kicked out or dropped out of other districts. In Herndon's case, 100% of these students are coming from larger districts. Many of these students have had several problems with the law, and in some cases substance abuse has been an issue. And we have been able to make a difference when larger districts have failed. At the elementary level frustrated parents have withdrawn their children from larger schools because the needs of their children with exceptionalities have not been met. Herndon needs the weighted funding to meet the psychological, physical and emotional requirements of these children that are falling through the cracks in larger districts. They require a significant amount of support services that would not be provided without the weighted formula.

On behalf of the children of Herndon USD #317, thank you for the opportunity to address this committee.

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
CONCERNING HOUSE BILL NO. 2142 FEBRUARY 12, 1997
SUBMITTED BY
MICHAEL J. WILSON, SUPERINTENDENT
USD #329--MILL CREEK VALLEY

Mr. Chairman and Members of the House Education Committee:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today concerning House Bill No. 2142. My name is Mike Wilson. I am the superintendent of schools for the Mill Creek Valley School District and also am testifying as an officer for the Schools For Quality Education organization, which is comprised of 111 school districts throughout the State of Kansas.

I am testifying today in opposition to this bill. I would like to point out that Low Enrollment Weighting, in its present form, has been ruled constitutional. There was considerable testimony concerning the need for this weighting when the legislature was designing the new finance law. I believe the need was substantially proven and that is the reason the present school finance law includes Low Enrollment Weighting.

I believe this proposed bill does not take into consideration the fact that it cost the same for a particular school district to educate a non-resident student as it does to educate a resident student. In fact, it is a little more expensive to educate a non-resident student because a school district does not receive any transportation funding for an out-of-district student. Examples would be if it cost a small district in Western Kansas \$5,000 to educate each student, it doesn't matter if that student lives in or out of the school district. Also, if it cost the Wichita school district \$3,600 per student, it doesn't matter if the student lives in our out of that school district.

One other problem I have with the proposed bill is that it singles out those districts which receive Low Enrollment Weighting. It does not address those larger districts which receive Correlation Weighting for out-of-district students. It appears this bill was written as punishment to those districts which receive the Low Enrollment Weighting. If the bill were written to simply save money, it seems very interesting that it does not include the savings by penalizing all districts who have students who live out-of-district.

In conclusion, I would like to ask you to not pass this proposed bill out of committee. I believe it is poor legislation which targets just small schools.

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