

Approved: 3/31/00
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TAXATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Wagle at 9:00 a.m. on March 2, 2000, in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Chris Courtwright, Legislative Research Department
April Holman, Legislative Research Department
Don Hayward, Revisor of Statutes
Shirley Sicilian, Department of Revenue
Ann Deitcher, Committee Secretary
Edith Beaty, Taxation Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Representative Doug Johnston
Diane Gjerstad, representing Wichita Public Schools
Jacque Oakes representing Schools for Quality Education
(written testimony only)
Craig Grant representing Kansas National Education Assoc.
(written testimony only)
Ron Hein, representing Kansas Restaurant and
Hospitality Assoc.

HB 2577 - Income check-off for USD technology fund programs

Representative Johnston testified before the Committee in support of **HB 2577** (Attachment 1).

He referred to the letters received from his constituents who wrote in support of **HB 2577**. (Attachments 2-1 through 2-16).

Diane Gjerstad, representing the Wichita Public Schools, appeared as a proponent of **HB 2577**. (Attachment 3).

Offering written testimony only in support of **HB 2577** were: Jacque Oakes, representing Schools for Quality Education, (Attachment 4) and Craig Grant, representing Kansas National Education Association, (Attachment 5).

The hearing on **HB 2577** was concluded.

HB 2678 - Sales tax exemption for hotel rental services furnished to state and federal government.

Appearing before the Committee in support of **HB 2678** was Ron Hein, representing the Kansas restaurant and Hospitality Association. (Attachment 6).

He called the Committee's attention to page 2, section (g) of **HB 2678**. He asked that the Committee see this bill to be in need of clarification and simplification.

The hearing on **HB 2678** was concluded.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 3, 2000.

DOUGLAS JOHNSTON

REPRESENTATIVE NINETY-SECOND DISTRICT

1450 LIEUNETT
WICHITA, KANSAS 67203
(316) 263-1582

STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 284-W
TOPEKA, KS 66612-1504
(785) 296-7665

LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE 1-800-432-3924

Email: rep_douglas_johnston@mail.ksleg.state.ks.us

State of Kansas



TOPEKA

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

MEMBER: TAXATION
TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENT
GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS
AND ELECTIONS
ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND
REGULATIONS

House of Representatives

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 2577

January 27, 2000

BY Douglas Johnston, State Representative, District 92 (Wichita)

Thank you Rep. Wagle and members of the committee for this opportunity to speak to you about HB 2577. I introduced this bill when the bad news about the budget began to come out this last summer. I thought to myself that we need to make every effort to keep our commitments to public education. This bill is just one of the ways we can pursue that goal.

HB 2577 would establish an income tax checkoff donation form which would allow citizens to donate dollars above their tax liability to fund technology upgrades in the K-12 public schools.

This checkoff would be in addition to the Chickadee Checkoff which is already on the income tax forms. This bill does not contain language that would eliminate the Chickadee Checkoff. I support the Chickadee Checkoff. It is a good programs for Kansas. But there should be room for an additional checkoff for such a good cause as technology in education.

I believe the bill has a fiscal note of approximately \$22,000 for reprogramming & staff time at the Dept. of Revenue.

The benefits could be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars donated by taxpayers. A history of the revenues from the Chickadee Checkoff is attached. There is little reason not to expect similar--or even better-- success with a technology in education checkoff.

Education is our top priority. The Governor and legislators of both parties have proven this by keeping our commitment to the increases in funding for public education this year and in next year's budget. Polls consistently show Kansans believe education should be our top priority. Kansans believe in the importance of technology in education.

Donations to the Millennium fund for technology in education could buy thousands of computers for Kansas students and teachers or technological upgrades for school libraries. In a very real sense this bill would be a fundraising effort by the Kansas Legislature. More money for technology in education without a tax increase. What could be better?

Please note that under the current Kansas school finance formula there is no fund specifically set up to upgrade technology in Kansas schools. This bill would provide one revenue source for such a fund, but it would not establish such a fund in the budget. I have purposefully left this question unanswered. I leave it to the wisdom of the committee and future legislatures to distribute the funds. My only caveat is that I most sincerely hope that any revenues generated by the checkoff will go to local school districts for hardware and software and not to the state and school district administration.

One last point: You constituents will love this bill. Please support the legislation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

House Taxation

Date: 3/2/00

Attachment # 1-1

CHICKADEE CHECK-OFF
10 YEAR REVENUE HISTORY

Year	Total # of contributors	Total Amount of Contributions
1988	21,112	\$157,113.93
1989	22,620	\$179,417.68
1990	20,747	\$153,309.66
1991	19,485	\$152,884.60
1992	19,670	\$155,641.00
1993	17,601	\$142,209.64
1994	17,784	\$158,784.16
1995	18,866	\$168,689.47
1996	13,131	\$189,763.46
1997	18,028	\$147,173.27
1998	13,647	\$141,475.00

Source: Kansas Department of Revenue



February 29, 2000

*Horace Mann Elementary Foreign
Language Magnet Complex*

Representative Doug Johnston,

It is our pleasure to write a letter of support for the technology bill. This bill would be an excellent way for schools to update existing technology, or provide schools that have little or no technology with a means to purchase equipment that would bring them into the 21st century.

You will find enclosed a copy of the HIP(Horace Mann, Irving, Park) Complex Technology plan. This plan includes assessments and findings for curriculum integration and staff development, evaluations and recommendations, technology action plan, and a computer inventory for Horace Mann.

Horace Mann is working towards establishing a technological environment where students will acquire the knowledge to further their understanding of technology. Our goal is to teach word processing, Internet, Hyper Studio, Power Point, DeskTop Publishing, and Web Page making to all students, 3rd through 5th. Students would also learn how to use input devices such as scanners, digital cameras, video cams, and CD writers. Without grants and donations the hardware, software, and input devices mentioned above will not be available to our students.

We hope this information will be beneficial to you in your quest .

Janet Jump

Principal

Melody Wade

Technology Teacher

House Taxation

Date: 3/2/00

Attachment # 2-1



**WICHITA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Post-It* Fax Note	7671	Date	2/28/00	# of pages	1
To	Rep. Doug Johnston	From	D. McPartland		
Co./Dept	KS Legis.	Co.	Clark Elem.		
Phone #		Phone #	316 973 5850		
Fax #	785-296-0251	Fax #	316 973 5860		

February 28, 2000

TO: Rep. Doug Johnston
 FROM: Donna McPartland, Principal *DM*
 RE: K-12 Technology

I whole heartedly support your proposal to provide an income tax check off box to raise money for technology in K-12 education.

My building budget is around \$22,000. With that amount I must fund supplies for teachers, custodian, library books, etc. AND technology. Because of this, we raise money through our PTO in a variety of ways: the sale of sundry items by students, carnival night proceeds, sale of chocolates, and skating party proceeds. It is very inadequate.

We currently have just finished a two-year process in purchasing one Pentium computer for each classroom and providing internet access to each room. Our plan is to have three additional computers in each room and an updated computer lab in the library. Our computer lab is not available at this time (26 Apple IIe's) because 13 are not working and we cannot find parts for the outdated machines. The immediate technology plan for Clark Elementary School is to get our lab working and to that measure we are trying to purchase 12 computers to start a mini lab before the beginning of next year.

Most of our classroom teachers are using the internet with their classroom computers, accessing information they use daily with their students. At other times, the computers are used for basic skills practice, problem solving skills practice, keyboard practice, Accelerated Reader, and many more.

Please let me know if there is anything else you need that would help you bring this bill to fruition.

Representative Doug Johnston
Fax: (785) 296 0251

Dear Representative Johnston,

I think that your idea to propose an income tax check off box to raise money for educational technology has a great deal of merit. As principal of an elementary school, I am continually frustrated with the gap between what our children need and what we are able to provide technologically. Granted, we are more fortunate than many Wichita schools, because we are blessed with an active parent organization that has the ability to generate funds to assist us with technology purchases. For the six years of our program's existence, the lion's share of these fund-raising dollars has gone to purchase computer hardware (computers, printers, and CD-rom). Additionally, we have pursued (and in some cases obtained) grants and business partnerships to assist with technology procurement. Other needs, such as library books and other equipment, have been put on hold in order to accomplish this.

Even with the assistance of all of these, we are woefully behind where we need to be for our students. We are gaining ground with hardware issues, but the software is another story. Because we have multiple machines, we are required to buy a "site license" for any software we use. This runs between \$300-\$2500 per program. Therefore, we have next to nothing in this area. So, even as we obtain the machines for the children to use, we don't have the tools to make them *really* useful.

One Site License we have obtained is for Microsoft Office. Our students use the word processor, spreadsheet, data base, and Power Point functions of this program. We also teach the students keyboarding skills, internet use, and have our library books bar coded and electronically catalogued. Additionally, we use the Accelerated Reader program which assists us in diagnosing reading levels and motivating students to read.

Any additional funding your idea could provide would not only assist us in updating our technology and software, but would also free up the funds we are currently diverting from other needs for this purpose. Thank you for caring about the needs of our students in the 21st Century!

Sincerely,



Dr. Shelly Martin, Principal
Bostic Traditional Magnet Elementary School
8103 E. Gilbert
Wichita, KS 67207
(316) 973-1800



Benton Elementary
(316) 973-3300
fax (316) 973-3305

February 25, 2000

The Honorable Doug Johnston
Room 284-W
State Capitol
Topeka, KS 66612

Representative Johnston:

I would like to offer my support of the bill you are presenting on an income tax check off box to raise money for technology in K-12 education. As you know, there is not enough money in our budget for the purchase of computers, scanners, printers, etc. In order for individual schools to have hardware that will allow us to have Internet access, electronic mail, word processing and office functions, we must raise the funds on our own.

Over a two-year period, our school has conducted fundraisers that have allowed us to put computers in every classroom. These allow students to do research through the Internet and electronic access to city and public libraries. It also allows students to develop and print research and project papers in the classroom.

Teachers are being asked to collect more student data. With computers in each classroom, every teacher is using the Excel program to develop spreadsheets, collect and analyze student data.

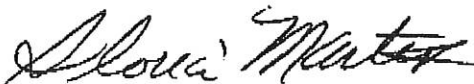
Our school has also used the Accelerated Reading program for several years. Record keeping has always been a problem because students did not have access to computers to take tests unless they were able to get on a computer in the library. With computers in every classroom, students can take an AR test whenever they are ready to do so. Records are also much more accurate.

Communication has also improved among our staff and parents since computers have been placed in every classroom. Teachers have published their e-mail addresses, and it is one more way that parents can contact them. We are still developing our Web Page with Homeroom Links.

I know we are ahead of many schools. We are fortunate that our fundraisers have allowed us to do this much. However, we are not finished. Every classroom needs a bank of computers (6-8) so that several students can work at one time. We also need an updated computer lab so that teachers can do whole group instruction through the computer. Our technology plan calls for the need of 110 more computers over the next 2 years. I do not know if we will be able to meet that demand.

We have the vision, but not the money. Thank you for introducing this bill. I hope that others will see the need to improve technology in the schools.

Sincerely,



Gloria Martin
Benton Elementary

cc: The Honorable Melany Barnes



Benton Elementary
(316) 973-3300
fax (316) 973-3305

February 25, 2000

The Honorable Doug Johnston
Room 284-W
State Capitol
Topeka, KS 66612

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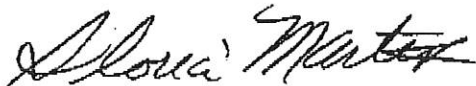
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Sincerely,



Gloria Martin
Benton Elementary

cc: The Honorable Melany Barnes

we're Building a Better World

One Student at a Time!!

Irving Elementary
1642 N. Market
Wichita, Ks 67214
(316) 973-0050

Date: 2-28-00

Fax# 785-296-0251

To: Douglas Johnston

From: Connie Quintanilla

Pages Sent: 3
(Including this cover)

Message:



To: Representative Doug Johnston
From: Connie Quintanilla
Re: Bill on School Technology

Irving Elementary has 420 kinder, first and second grade children. We have 18 classroom teachers and they each have 4/5 computers in the classroom for 26 children. We have the Jostens Integrated Learning System that is networked with each classroom that supports essential skills and processes that students need to become proficient readers, writers and mathematicians. ESOL students can receive instruction in English, Spanish, or combination of both, depending on their individual language level.

We are on a computer lease purchase plan that we have been paying for the last five years. We still have 2 more years to finish paying for our lease. The money that we use to pay for our lease comes from our allocation of Title 1 monies. The problem with this is that we are still paying for hardware and software that has been outdated.

To improve communication with the world via the Internet as well establish a home-school connection, each classroom teacher needs to have a direct telephone lines. We are working toward this goal.

To enable access to multimedia programming, each classroom needs a cable connection. To enhance student creation of various presentations in all curricular areas, stand-alone computer workstations loaded with presentation software are needed.

We also need our teachers to have access to computer management tools in order to report student assessment data.

To promote the integration to technologies in curriculum delivery, staff members need CD-ROM's, VCR's, the Internet, and Cable in the classrooms.

Our PTO has made a commitment to help us raise money to try to reach our goals.

We appreciate any support you can give us. If I can do anything else let me know.

I am sending you a home survey that was distributed to parents to better analyze the parental attitudes on home equipment.

1. The computers at the complex help my child learn. **yes-99.9% (454/2)**
2. Having computers at the HIP Complex will help my child become a life-long learner.
yes-99% no-1% (442/6)
3. We would like to have a computer in our home. **yes-95% no-5% (421/23)**
4. If the school helped us get a computer to use at home, we would sign a responsibility agreement to take care of the computer. **yes-90% no-10% (391/41)**
5. If we had a computer linked to a HIP Complex school, my child could continue the learning process even if he/she was absent. **yes-97% no-3% (423/14)**
6. I would like to learn more about the use of a computer and software programs.
yes-94% no-6% (416/24)
7. I would be willing to work in the classroom with my child's teacher and my child to learn more about how computers are used at school.
yes-94% no-6% (365/63)

The following resources are currently available in the homes of parents responding:
(percentage data based on 456 surveys)

Electricity- 98% (448)	Modem- 7% (33)
Clock- 95% (432)	Internet access- 5% (23)
Working Telephone- 78% (355)	Fax machine- 4% (19)
Computer- 12% (56)	Television- 96% (440)
Quiet area for students to work- 78% (355)	VCR- 76% (346)

From: "Anderson/Johnston" <DJOHNSTON1@kscable.com>
To: <johnston@house.state.ks.us>
Date: Mon, Feb 28, 2000 8:30 AM
Subject: <no subject>

Return-Path: tsmarsh@kscable.com

Hello Rep. Johnston!

I was informed yesterday by someone in one of my daughter's school that you are sponsoring a "Technology Checkoff" bill to aid the state's schools with technology. I just wanted to email you and tell you that your bill is a superb idea! I understand that you are wanting any interested individuals to come to Topeka on Friday to speak about this subject. As much as I would like to be there, unfortunately, I cannot due to other committments here in Wichita. So I am emailing you instead.

My hat goes off to you to come up with a wonderful, painless way to enhance the technology in our children's schools! As I'm sure you are aware, USD 259 is in the midst of a bond issue situation to propose repair to the many dilapidated school buildings within our district. Unfortunately, I feel that technology will be taking a back seat to the other pressing issues contained in the Steering Committee's recommendations: repair of infrastructure, replacement of portable classrooms and air conditioning, to name a few.

I for one feel that if we do not do what we can to provide the best schools and cutting edge technology to all schools, we as a state will be losing out in the big game. Our state will not be able to attract new businesses and top notch people to the state that we need to continue to grow. We must NEVER forget that the students of today are the leaders of tomorrow! It is our duty to provide our children with the best resources possible for the best educational opportunities possible. WE OWE IT TO THEM! Technology certainly is the wave of the future and we should not leave the children of Kansas behind!

I can think of no easier, painless way to do this than to have the opportunity to check the "Technology Checkoff" on our state income tax forms! This issue is of paramount importance, probably even more so than the "Chickadee Checkoff" (which I have contributed to since its inception). I implore you to pursue this aggressively with your fellow legislators, as this is the best idea I have heard in years! PLEASE do what you can to get this bill passed!

Even though I cannot be in Topeka to support your bill, I hope you will share my comments with everyone. Both of my girls attend schools with technology emphasized cirriculum (one goes to L'Ouverture Computer Technology Magnet Elementary and the other goes to Brooks Middle Magnet). They have already been exposed to the great things that computer technology can provide them. I would hate to see all the wonderful learning experiences they have been a part of go to waste because we can't afford to improve the technology in our schools. We as parents can only do so much fund-raising to enhance this technology ourselves and I do not forsee the school districts helping out much, especially in light of Gov. Graves

proposed cuts to education and the other issues facing the districts.

Thanks for being such a great representative for this area! I had the pleasure of meeting you at one of the block parties a couple of years ago and I appreciate you coming to that block party and letting us know you do care! Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Thanks Again!

Tammy Smarsh

PS Another person who would be an excellent advocate for your bill is Dr. Howard Pitler, principal at Brooks Middle Magnet (he was principal at L'Ouverture prior to Brooks). He is a very strong, vocal advocate for computer technology and improving our schools. You can reach him at hpitler@brooksmms.com. Feel free to let him know I referred you to him.

From: <Florademo@aol.com>
To: <Kansasrep@aol.com>
Date: Sun, Feb 27, 2000 10:23 PM
Subject: Technology for Schools

Representative Johnson,

It is my understanding that you are sponsoring a bill to provide more funding for technology in the schools. I am writing to support such a bill.

Technology in our schools is used to augment traditional teaching methods, and is important for the future of our students.

I teach second grade in Valley Center. Our district has had a technology plan for several years. It is our goal to have all five of our schools networked, and to have internet access. This was supposed to be in place by now, but due to some cost overruns in our recent renovation and building project, the funds had to be diverted to pay for those instead.

It is my understanding that the lines are all in place and just need to be connected. We are planning to do that soon. Even after that is accomplished, keeping up with technology will be an ongoing expense. The monthly cost for the internet access alone will be \$3,000 per month.

Each building does have a computer lab. My students are able to use the lab for 40 minutes each week. Our Parent Teacher Organization has held fund raisers to purchase software for our lab. We have a variety of programs for drill and practice on basic skills, as well as, an Accelerated Reading Program which we implemented in second and third grades this year. This has increased our student's interest in reading. We hope to add more titles to this program with more funds from the parent organization. I also have one Powermac in my classroom and two old Apple II E's.

In order to use such programs on multiple machines, it is necessary to purchase several lab packs or a site license. Such licenses or lab packs can cost \$3,000 each. Purchasing and updating our software is another ongoing expense that will need to be budgeted for each year.

When I attend meetings with teachers from other districts, I am always interested in the ways they use their computers to enhance their student's learning. I have a notebook full of really good educational web sites ready to go whenever we are finally connected to the internet. More funding to make that happen sooner would really be appreciated. Thank you for your interest in this issue.

Flora Bishop
Abilene Elementary School
522 N. Abilene
Valley Center, KS 67147

Attention: **Mr. Douglas Johnston**

Date: 3/1/00

Company: Kansas House of Representatives

Number of Pages: 3

Fax Number: 9-1-785-296-0251-7631

Voice Number:

From: **HIP/WSU PDS**

Company: Horace Mann

Fax Number: 316-973-3141

Voice Number: 316-973-3141

Subject: Technology in Schools

Comments:

Dear Representative Johnston,

I am faxing you a letter concerning the technology available in the schools I work with. I hope you will find the information helpful.

I live in North Riverside, and although I missed the coffee talk at the Perk, I appreciate the way you try to keep us informed!

Sincerely,
Cindy Walker

February 29, 2000

Douglas Johnston
Kansas House of Representatives
Topeka, KS 66612

RE: TECHNOLOGY IN SCHOOLS

Dear Representative Johnston,

I am the district coordinator of an elementary Professional Development School (PDS) located in the Historic Midtown Area of Wichita. Our PDS is located within three (3) elementary schools: The Horace Mann, Irving and Park Complex, which are located within six (6) blocks of each other. Approximately thirty (30) elementary education majors from Wichita State University intern with us for a two-year period—volunteering over 1,000 hours apiece while working with teachers and children in a “real world” classroom setting. Their core college courses are taught on the elementary school campus.

I understand that you are seeking information on the availability of technology within school settings. Our PDS interns have access to: (1) several laptop computers—which can be checked out for completing coursework, researching topics on the Internet, or creating presentations, (2) a desktop computer—located in the PDS classroom and used for the same purposes, (3) an InFocus projector—used for presentations, (4) an 8mm video camera—for videotaping lessons they teach, (5) a scanner—to import pictures and documents, (6) a digital camera—to put a “real” face into documents or presentations, and (5) a system-wide network within each of the elementary buildings—used for disseminating information and communication among teams, individuals, and the entire staff, accessing the Internet, and creating individualized student lessons with Josten’s Learning Systems.

All of our interns are required to document their growth on disk during this two-year program as: Professionals, Instructors, and Managers. They update this information on a regular basis and submit a completed computer printout instead of a formal portfolio when they graduate from the program.

We have obtained the limited technology that we have through grant writing and local donations. Goals 2000 monies over the last few years have helped us procure two laptops and the projector. A new scanner was donated to our program. Wichita State University purchased a laptop and desktop computer for the PDS classroom, because of the desire to outfit our classroom with state-of-the-art technology. If future teachers are going to be proficient in the use of technology, it must be readily accessible to them.

The schools our interns work in have procured their technology pieces mostly through Title I dollars. Each classroom has between 4-6 computers and Horace Mann is equipped with a lab, holding approximately 28 computers. All of these are networked throughout the individual buildings, and since they were purchased over 5 years ago they are fast becoming obsolete and unfixable in some cases.

We recognize the importance of preparing teachers and students to live in a technological society, however we also realize there is a vast disparity of resources available throughout the state. All teachers, future teachers, and students need ready access to current technology in order to compete in the 21st Century. If I can be of any further assistance to you, please contact me at (316) 973-3141 or (316) 973-3100.

Sincerely,



Cindy Walker
HIP/WSU PDS Co-Coordinator

2-16



Winston Brooks, Superintendent
316-973-4580
E-mail: wbrooks@feist.com

Alvin E. Morris Administrative Center
201 N. Water
Wichita, Kansas 67202

**House Taxation Committee
Representative Susan Wagle, chair
Technology for Schools**

March 2, 2000

*Submitted by: Diane Gjerstad
Wichita Public Schools*

Madame Chair, members of the committee, thank you for taking the time to hear this bill. First take a moment to reflect back to 1992, when the current school finance formula was written. Did you have a laptop? A computer in your home? Did you use the Internet? When the current formula was written, computers and Internet access were just beginning to be common. In 1992 a funding stream for technology was not even discussed.

How technology has changed so very quickly in eight short years. For example, over \$1.6M has been spent to re-wire the Capitol for technology. Schools have the same expenses.

The costs you do not see

Start with the quality of electrical service to the building. Updating the electrical service up to the building is necessary, costs can run from \$25,000 to \$30,000 per building.

Next the internal wiring must be updated to handle the load. The average age of a school building in Wichita is 53 years old. Consider how many plug-ins are in those classrooms, yet my office computer takes four outlets of a power strip. Multiply that times the number of computers for a classroom.

The Wichita Public Schools are spending \$660,000 to complete the infrastructure for the 13 middle schools this year alone. Next the high schools, who have financed their upgrades with activity fees and soft drink contracts, will be brought up to the district's standard.

Some issues surrounding out dated technology?

Apple IIe labs: old technology with constant breakdowns.

Network running Windows 3.1.

New software does not run.

Too little memory or small processors – machines are very slow, limits the software that will run.

Monitors, sound cards and floppy drives wear out – not worth replacing.

Cannibalize for replacement parts.

Sound cards are important for non-English speaking students to hear the language while learning.

Old computers are not Internet capable.

Madame Chair, Kansas schools need a dedicated funding stream for technology. As other committees discuss a statewide technology backbone, let's ensure all schools will have the technology to plug into the backbone. I would encourage this committee tackle the problem.

House Taxation

Date: 3-2-00

Attachment # 3



Schools for Quality Education

Bluemont Hall Manhattan, KS 66506 (913) 532-5886

March 2, 2000

TO: HOUSE TAXATION COMMITTEE

FROM: SCHOOLS FOR QUALITY EDUCATION – Jacque Oakes

SUBJECT: HB 2577 – RELATING TO INCOME TAXATION; PROVIDING A CHECK-OFF FOR FUNDING OF UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

Schools For Quality Education, an organization of 115 small school districts, would like to submit written testimony in favor of HB 2577 which would provide a check-off for funding technology programs.

With state receipts coming in short and funding sources scarce, we believe that we must all become more creative in finding other ways to fund education needs.

We applaud Representative Johnston in stepping "outside of the box" with a piece of very innovative thinking.

A recent poll by the Public Education Network showed that the majority of respondents feel that improving public education is the most important civic priority today. This check-off would give Kansas citizens an opportunity to improve public education.

Annually, Schools For Quality Education holds an essay contest for students in our member districts. In 1997 the chosen topic was technology, and we have attached two of the winning essays from that year by Kansas students who recognized the importance of technology in schools.

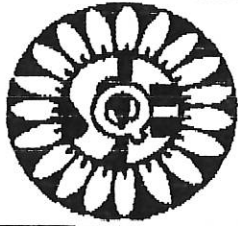
Please support HB 2577 and afford the check-off the possibility of success. Thank you.

"Rural is Quality"

House Taxation

Date 3/2/00

Attachment # 4-1



Reporter

Volume 11, Number 7

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SCHOOLS FOR QUALITY EDUCATION, INC.

Medical Technology, An Intriguing Look Into the World of Medicine Division I Winning Essay

"Start it out with a question, like, "What is technology?" That was my English teacher, Mrs. O'Connor. When I had signed up for an English class I was not expecting a 500 word essay. Technology...Well. That is a tough one. I guess my "Bic Clicker" is technology, kind of. It's better than Matt's #2. My notebook has "Easy Tear Edges". I guess technology is more than just computers. I've found my mission.

But where can I look? Not another problem. I use the route I've adapted to since I was a little girl, "Mrs. O'Connor, I don't get it." Instead of giving me the answer, like she was supposed to, she gives me another question, "What do you use everyday, what does your family use everyday?" That's it! I can hardly wait until the day is over, not like that's new. I sit at the kitchen table, "Mom, what do you use everyday at the hospital that has to do with linking the rural community to technology. You could just write it out in, oh say, a 500 word essay." Who ever tipped her off is in big trouble. She wouldn't write it. Then came the dreaded words, "We'll talk after supper."

Well, here's what I found out "after supper."

Technology has changed lots of things in many fields in these last few years. My mom says one of the biggest things is called "Telemedicine." With this method of health care you don't need to have specialists from various fields. Well, let me explain this. Say a patient comes in with a rash, but none of your doctors have seen anything like it, therefore have no idea how to treat it.

You set up an appointment with a doctor in a bigger city, but the patient doesn't have to drive hundreds of miles.

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Congratulations SQE Essay Contest Winners!

Winners have been announced for this year's Schools for Quality Education Essay Contest. Karen Schadel, chairperson for the contest, reported that winners were selected from over 412 entries. These entries were submitted from SQE member school districts throughout the state. "Technology, Connecting Rural Schools & Communities" was the title for this year's essays. Scholarship checks and plaques were presented to these winners at the Joint SQE and Nineteenth Annual Rural and Small Schools Conference Banquet on October 26, 1997. Thanks to all schools submitting entries. Please announce these winners to your participating students.

Division I 10th - 12th Grades

- 1st - Robynn Ochsner
USD #316—Golden Plains
- 2nd - Laney Allbritten
USD #332—Cunningham
- 3rd - Jessica Behrends
USD #278—Mankato

Division II 7th - 9th Grades

- 1st - Nicole Inez Ostrmeyer
USD #291—Grinnell
- 2nd - Christopher Fogle
USD #270—Plainville
- 3rd - Chris Albers
USD #332—Cunningham

Technology: Connecting Rural Schools & Communities

Division II Winning Essay

Big items come in small packages! This phrase loosely describes large connections made possible through technology in our small towns and schools.

Because elements of higher education, such as universities, large libraries, and professionals with areas of expertise aren't convenient, higher education in rural areas is hard to obtain. History illustrates how the most educated individuals usually have options. TV, Internet, E-mail correspondence with experts, and faxes connect rural community and school members to higher education. With more education, more choices are available, including the choice of rural living, while choosing careers traditionally requiring urban settings. With more individuals bringing varied careers into rural settings, we continue to maintain population assuring our existence as communities with schools.

Large volumes of encyclopedias and other resources are now compiled on discs about the size of children's hands. Once gifts like these are connected with computers, children are connected literally to the world.

Once technology assists with connections to the world, rural citizens are able to envision connections to inject energy into their communities and schools.

One larger connection is of community resources, which are usually businesses and older wiser citizens, to school resources which are youth's strength and eagerness to learn and apply technology to situations for improvement of all concerned.

The largest connection is the connecting of hopes for the continuation of rural communities and schools with choice conveniences, and the dream that those rural schools and communities will exist far into the next millennium.

by Nicole Inae Ostmeier
USD #291—Grinnell

Rural Rebound In Time Magazine

Time Magazine produced a series of articles highlighting the problems and opportunities of the U.S.'s two million--person rural rebound. "Why More Americans are Fleeing to Small Towns" (December 8, 1997). The articles address towns' successful activities in stemming their decline and covers the tensions arising from newcomers and growth. For more information on this topic, contact the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington, DC, www.ntrph.org or check out "Communities In the Path of Development" by the Aspen Institute Rural Economic Policy Program, \$10, 202-736-5804. The Time articles can be found on the web at: www.pathfinder.com/time/magazine/1997/dom/971208;cover1.html



(continued from page 1)

All that has to be done is to set up an IV. The patient comes and sits in front of a TV and a specialist from hundreds of miles away surveys their case. They can even set up a stethoscope to a microphone. Doctors can even use this method in surgery.

The computer has changed everything in hospitals, instead of writing up reports by hand they can just punch up a few keys and the medical chart is there in front of them. Instead of searching endless medical books for a medication, they can just type in a common name and the scientific name comes on the screen.

Computers have even changed the billing process, which most patients are actually quite happy with. All medications or tools used are put in a computer and then double checked, so there is no double billing.

There is much more that I could write about but I fell asleep soon after that. All in all I'm glad I joined English III, and I'm also glad I got to write this report. I'm especially glad that I have Mrs. O'Connor as a teacher. So, do I get an A?

by Robynn Ochsner
USD #316—Golden Plains



Written Testimony by Craig Grant
House Taxation Committee
Thursday, March 2, 2000

Thank you, Madam Chair, for the opportunity to submit written testimony on HB 2577, a bill that would allow a voluntary income tax check-off for school district technology. The Kansas Association of School Boards has asked to join in my comments today. I have another committee I need to be in at the same time, so appreciate the chance to share my thoughts in writing.

Kansas NEA appreciates the thoughts behind this bill. It certainly recognizes a need that education lobbyists have been talking about for a few years now. We were able to put a \$10 million appropriation into the budget about two years ago as a one-time expenditure for technology in the schools. Since that time, we have been unable to convince the legislature to fund further ongoing technology programs in the schools.

Kansas ranks 36th in the nation in the percent of classrooms with Internet access. Our neighbor Nebraska ranks 2nd with over 80% of the classrooms connected. Colorado ranks 13th, Iowa ranks 7th, Missouri ranks 17th, and Arkansas ranks 27th. Only Oklahoma ranks below us in this category.

As far as expenditures for education technology, in the last five years, the following amounts have been appropriated by the states indicated:

- Oklahoma -- \$18.8 million
- Nebraska -- \$22.0 million
- Missouri -- \$130.0 million
- Iowa -- \$90.0 million
- Arkansas -- \$59.0 million
- Kansas -- \$12.5 million

This trend should not continue if our students in Kansas are to compete with students from other states in the coming years. We can talk about being Y2K compliant, but I can inform you that most of our classrooms are not yet into the computer age in a meaningful way.

We thank Representative Johnston for recognizing the need and suggesting a solution. We are not sure if this is the best and/or most adequate method for meeting the need. We do believe, however, that the legislature needs to devote resources from its Kansas taxpayers to equipping our schools to better meet the challenges of preparing our students for the world of work ahead of them.

Thank you for addressing these concerns.

House Taxation

Date: 3/2/00

Attachment # 5

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Testimony re: HB 2678

House Taxation Committee

Presented by Ronald R. Hein

on behalf of

Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association

March 2, 2000

Madam Chairman, Members of the Committee:

My name is Ron Hein, and I am legislative counsel for the Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association. The KRHA is the trade association for restaurant, hotel, lodging and hospitality businesses in Kansas.

HB 2678 provides that the renting of hotel rooms by federal or state agencies, officers, or employees operating in association with the performance of their official government duties are not subject to sales tax. HB 2678 was introduced by the House Taxation Committee. Previously, SB 82 was introduced during the 1999 Session. The interim Assessment and Taxation Committee reviewed that bill, and introduced HB 2587, which provides an exemption for federal, state, city, county, and school district employees or agencies renting hotel rooms.

There are basically two problems that will be solved by the passage of HB 2587, and that will be partially solved by the passage of HB 2678. One of these problems is that hotels along Kansas borders, especially the border with Missouri, have been at a competitive disadvantage regarding securing conventions of government employees.

Under Kansas law, when payment is made "directly by the government agency", the hotel stay by the employee is exempt from sales tax. However, if the government employee uses their own credit card or other payment methodology, and then gets reimbursed by the governmental entity, the transaction is not exempt. The key is that there must be direct payment from the government to the hotel to qualify for the exemption.

It is my understanding that Kansas has already lost one major convention in the KC metro area to a competitor in Missouri because of this law. I am sure there have been others.

The second problem relates to the difficulty of explaining the current law and its complexities to desk clerks and other personnel who are on the front line of hotel operations. It is even more difficult for the desk clerk to explain the procedures to the governmental employees. Many government employees attempt to argue with the desk clerks or hotel management because they are there on official government business, and they believe that they should not be subject to the

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sales tax because they are going to be reimbursed by the government. This can happen with federal, state, county, city or school district employees.

The law is so complex to understand that hotels have, while attempting to follow the law, misinterpreted the law, only to have audits reveal that they should have collected a sales tax which they did not collect. As a result of those audits, the hotel has been required to pay the tax that they should have collected from the government employee in the first place.

The law should be as simple and clear as possible so that the hotels can enforce it properly. What can also happen given the confusion under current law is that some hotels will collect the tax, others will not, and the ones that do not are at a competitive advantage. This is being done not because the hotels are attempting to cheat the state out of money, but because of the difficulty of knowing exactly when the government employee is exempt and when they are not exempt, and documenting the proper information so as not to be found liable for non-collection of the tax upon audit.

HB 2587, introduced by the interim tax committee, would have solved the problem for all layers of government employees, by eliminating the need to have direct payment. Therefore, when a government employee came to the hotel, whether they paid by a personal credit card, a personal check, a government check, or a government credit card (such as utilized by the federal government) which authorizes direct payment from the government to the hotel, the transaction would be exempt. The hotel would have to document who the government employee is, and have the government employee execute an exemption certificate or other documentation to establish that they are indeed a government employee and that they are on official government business. However, HB 2587 has a \$1.2 million fiscal note. As the members of this committee are well aware, such a bill is not going to pass this year.

HB 2678, which provides for an exemption for federal and state employees, has a fiscal note of approximately \$280,000. Although HB 2587 would have solved both of the problems listed above for all government employees, HB 2678 will at least solve both of the problems listed above for federal and state employees. The law will be clearer to understand, clearer to enforce, and will eliminate the competitive disadvantage that Kansas currently faces, at least regarding conventions or other business of federal or state employees.

However, HB 2678 will still leave some confusion regarding how hotel personnel are to deal with city, county, and school district employees, and will still put Kansas at a competitive disadvantage with regards to those employees, especially along the Missouri border.

One of the keys, of course, will be for the Department of Revenue to promulgate regulations and/or forms that are clear to understand and easy to explain to appropriate desk personnel and government employees seeking to rent a hotel room. The KRHA offers its expertise and services in working with the Department of Revenue to make sure that, when the bill is passed, the rules, policies, forms, and guidelines issued by the Department are clear and simple. Dennis Carpenter, CEO of the KRHA, and I have met with Shirley Sicilian and Tom Hattan of the Department of Revenue to discuss these issues as well. We feel confident that the agency will

work with us on this legislation. We are hopeful that the committee, likewise, will feel that one of the goals and intent of this legislation will be to clarify and simplify what has been, to date, a complex law to implement and enforce, especially given the fact that the hotels have to enforce it. We hope to make the process as simple as is currently used by entities utilizing exemption certificates in order to make purchases, at least for the federal and state employees this year, and hopefully for the other government employees next year.

The KRHA strongly supports the passage of HB 2678, even though it is not a full and complete solution to the problem, because it is a step in the right direction to solving the problems. We still would like to see the legislature add exemptions for the other government agencies and employees as soon as state revenues permit.

Thank you very much for permitting me to testify, and I will be happy to yield to questions.