

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clay Aurand at 9:00 A.M. on February 6, 2007 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Benjamin Hodge- absent
Representative Ted Powers- excused

Committee staff present:

Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Michele Alishahi, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Ashley Holm, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Janet Henning, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Wichita Superintendent's Student Advisory Council (SuperSAC)
Representative Bill Otto
Bill Reardon, USD 500, Kansas City, KS
Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Public Schools
Mark Desetti, KNEA (Written only)
Scott Sills, Superintendent, USD 286, Sedan, KS
Richard Spencer, Superintendent, USD 217, Rolla, KS
Dennis Burk, Superintendent, USD 508, Baxter Springs, KS
Dr. Brian Smith, Superintendent, USD #499, Galena, KS
Jim Edwards, KS Association of School Boards
Mike Nulton, Superintendent, USD #242, Weskan, KS (Written testimony)
Robert Loftin, Board Member, USD 242, Weskan, KS (Written testimony)
Representative Doug Gatewood

The Chairman recognized Diane Gjerstad who in turn introduced Wichita area students participating on the Wichita Superintendent's Student Advisory Council (SuperSAC). The SuperSAC students provide the administration and Board of Education feedback on a wide range of issues, including upcoming issues on the Board's agenda along with topics being debated in the statehouse. SuperSAC is comprised of two students from each of Wichita seven comprehensive high schools and one from each alternative high school and Northeast Magnet.

HB 2063 - School districts; transportation of pupil residing one mile or more from school.

Representative Otto addressed the Committee as a proponent of **HB 2063**. (Attachment #1)

Bill Reardon, a proponent, stated that in a district such as Kansas City, transporting children who live closer than 2.5 miles to their school is not a luxury. Serious safety concerns make these services a necessity. (Attachment #2)

Diane Gjerstad, a proponent, told Committee members that transportation was a basic issue of safety for parents in determining how their child will get to and from school safely each day. Lowering the mileage threshold would benefit families. (Attachment #3)

Mark Desetti presented written testimony to the Committee regarding **HB 2063**. (Attachment #4)

The Chairman closed the hearing on **HB 2063**.

HB 2092 - School districts; pupils who are nonresidents of the state.

Representative Otto addressed the Committee as a proponent of **HB 2092**. (Attachment #5)

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Education Committee at 9:00 A.M. on February 6, 2007 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

Speaking as opponents to **HB 2092** were the following: Scott Sills (Attachment #6); Richard Spencer (Attachment #7); Dennis Burke (Attachment #8); Jim Edwards (Attachment #9); and Dr. Brian Smith (Attachment #10).

Written testimony opposing **HB 2092** was received from Mike Nulton (Attachment #11) and Robert Loftin (Attachment #12).

Representative Gatewood also spoke in opposition to **HB 2092**. (No written testimony provided)

The Chairman closed the hearing on **HB 2092**.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:35 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2007 at 9:00 AM.

STATE OF KANSAS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SERVING: ALLEN, ANDERSON, FRANKLIN
COFFEY, AND WOODSON COUNTIES

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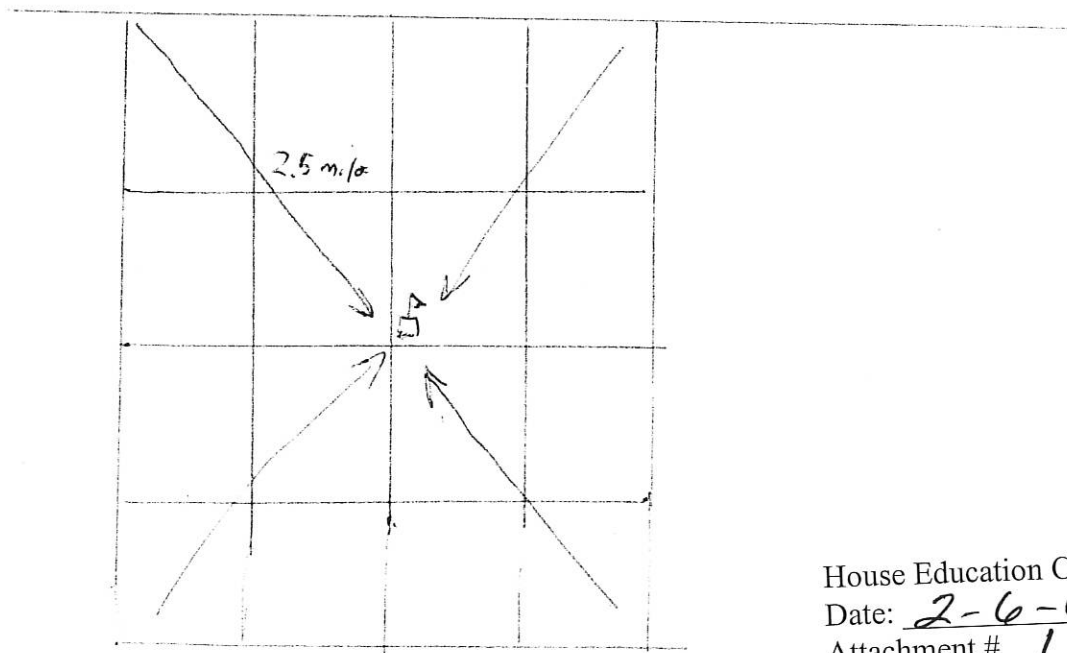
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785-296-7636
otto@house.state.ks.us



BILL OTTO

HB 2063

There are some things that you should do just because it is the wright thing to do. Most schools in the state do not make children walk 2.5, it is just NOT safe. But the state only pays for transportation of students who live 2.5 miles for school or more, why to save money. This is not the set of Leave it to Beaver, we have danger around every corner, many times there are no side walks. If we just take the golden rule of do unto others as you would have them do unto you we will pass this bill. Would you make a second grade child walk two and a half miles across city streets?



House Education Committee
Date: 2-6-07
Attachment # 1



Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools

Unified School District No. 500

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE HB 2063 TESTIMONY BY USD 500

February 6, 2007

One of the special challenges USD 500 faces each year relates to the current law in Kansas which only funds transportation costs of those students who live more than 2 ½ miles from their attendance center.

For many years, Kansas City has chosen to transport students who live closer than 2.5 miles. This year we transport 5,867 students who live inside 2.5 miles. However, without state funding for these 5,867 kids, we are left with two choices. 1) Rob dollars from other district programs, or 2) continue to increase the LOB to pay for these transportation costs.

If these options are so unpleasant, why do we continue to provide this service when state law does not require it?

Many of the students who live within 2.5 miles of their school would be required to cross one or more major thoroughfares each morning and afternoon in order to reach their school. Our district feels it would be irresponsible to force our kids to cross these busy streets each school day.

A related safety concern that our district must address is the reality that there are some neighborhoods in our community that are simply not safe for children to be walking

through on their way to school. For example, dozens of registered sex offenders live within our school district and many are clustered in a few areas. To require our children to walk through these neighborhoods each day would be unconscionable.

Kansas made a change in the law a few years ago to allow USDs to charge a bus fee for children who are transported inside the 2.5 miles barrier. This change has little application in our district because the law also prohibits USDs from charging free lunch children for these transportation costs. Kansas City has the largest percentage of free and reduced lunch children of any of the 296 USDs in Kansas – approximately 75%.

In a district such as Kansas City, transporting children who live closer than 2.5 miles to their school is not a luxury. In fact, refusing to transport isn't really even an option. Serious safety concerns make these services truly a necessity.

For these reasons Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools is supportive of HB 2063.

Bill Reardon

Lobbyist, Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools



House Education

Representative Aurand, Chair

Transportation Weighting

Submitted by Diane Gjerstad

Wichita Public Schools

February 6, 2007

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee:

One word describes the 2.5 mileage threshold: antiquated. Established in the 1960s when our communities looked different, when our families looked different, when our work places looked different, the 2.5 mileage threshold does not reflect the need of today's families.

Each and every day for nine months, tens of thousands of families struggle with this basic issue: *how can I get my student to school on time and safely and back home .*

Safety: Transportation is a basic issue of safety for parents – who and how will their child get to and from school *safely*. **Lowering the mileage threshold would benefit families.**

Old neighborhoods: Just think for a moment what a 2.5 parameter from older elementary schools looks like: traffic, busy commercial areas, and dramatic differences in neighborhoods within a few blocks.

New neighborhoods: Conversely new housing developments often do not have sidewalks, have elevated roadways, wide arterials of five or more lanes, or gated communities which extend the walk to school.

Because the state formula doesn't reflect the reality of how communities look, local boards are subsidizing busing. We subsidize two ways – actual cost is higher for the kids more than 2.5 miles plus many districts transport some students living less than 2.5 miles (hazardous transportation). The Wichita Board of Education instituted "hazardous busing" about ten years ago. About 4100 Wichita students (living less than 2.5 miles) receive hazardous busing at a cost of \$1.7M. This is not reimbursed.

No Child Left Behind: A new wrinkle is choice required under NCLB. Schools not making the "annual yearly progress" for all student groups for three years are required to offer parents choice to another school. Wichita's middle schools were the first to miss the AYP mark and are required to offer choice. About 300 students have exercised this option. The cost to the district is about \$450,000 in transportation (the feds require the district to transport). But what is most interesting about the families who are transferring is when asked **why** they moved their child the **overwhelming answer is to receive busing services!!** Not because they thought their child would receive a better education, because they wanted busing. The irony in this action is we know it is easier for parents to be involved in their child's education when the school is closer to home, especially families in poverty. An unattended consequence of not having appropriate transportation formula is families who can least deal with the distance are now the farthest from their child's school.

Mr. Chairman, it is far past time to lower the mileage threshold. Its past time more parents can have peace of mind knowing their child is safely getting to and from school. Its past time we recognize, even in Kansas, its not 1960 any more. Thank you for considering this issue of great concern to many Kansas families.

House Education Committee

Date 2-6-07

Attachment # 3



KANSAS NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION / 715 SW 10TH AVENUE / TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1686

**Mark Desetti, Written Testimony
House Education Committee
February 6, 2007
House Bill 2063**

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on **HB 2063**.

I am a very fortunate parent in that my wife and I bought our home within blocks of the elementary and high schools and over 2.5 miles from the junior high school. But my daughter's friend is faced with a difficult choice; pay a very high price for district bus service, depend on a ride from her parents every day, or walk 2.4 miles. In the case of my neighborhood this is a 2.5 mile walk or bike ride, nearly all down hill, and across two major arterial roadways – one of which has no stoplight or crosswalk. There are no crossing guards on the route and, since school starts at 8:00 am, it is dark in December and January. The return trip is a long slog uphill.

The school district was forced to cut bus service due to budget cuts. And as a result parents are forced to make a choice between enormous bus charges or letting their children walk a route at a dangerous time and across dangerous streets. Yet another safety issue is the back-up of vehicles dropping children off for school or picking them up in the evening.

The Legislative Post Audit study recommended that legislators examine the current transportation formula and make some decisions on possible adjustments which might include changing the distance requirement or the "within the city" limitation.

KNEA believes that the Legislature needs to address ways in which the state might provide student transportation within a reasonable distance and that the issue of student safety should be addressed. Passage of HB 2063 is a step in the right direction.

House Education Committee
Date: 2-6-07
Attachment # 4

STATE OF KANSAS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SERVING: ALLEN, ANDERSON, FRANKLIN
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Topeka, KS 66612
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otto@house.state.ks.us



BILL OTTO

My mother did her best to teach me to clean up my own mess. They tell you to not put your name on a bill and HB 2092 is a good reason to not do it. Last year, I got a bill passed to see that one person one vote was the rule in school boards across the state. The Senate made some changes and somewhere along the line a "repeal number got on to my bill". In addition to making one person one vote, my bill repealed a bill just passed the year before. I would have put my name on this bill but I have been told my name is on too many bills.

The problem is we have better schools than the states around us and we have parents from other states who want their children to go to school in Kansas. I think it is a reasonable bill that expects people from other states to educate their own children. Unless you work in the school or pay taxes to the school or can come up with a very good reason you can go to school free in Kansas.

I was not on the conference committee, it could have been an honest error. I would ask you to vote for this bill even if you do not like it, because it was done in a way that should have never been.

House Education Committee
Date: 2-6-07
Attachment # 5

Testimony on **HB 2092**
before the
House Education Committee

by

Scott Hills, K-6 Principal/Supt. of Schools
USD 286 Chautauqua County Community – Sedan

February 6, 2007

Chairman Aurand and Members of the House Education Committee:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to appear before you to express my thoughts and ideas concerning **HB 2092** and the positive impact out-of-state students has on our school district and community.

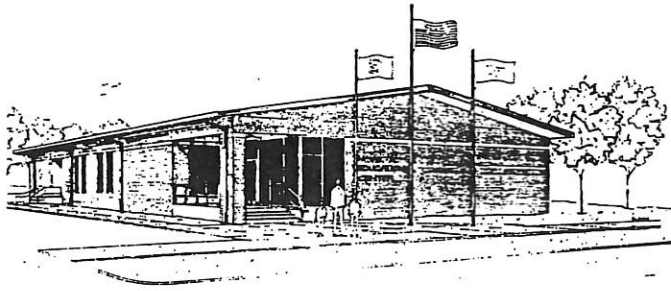
Sedan is home for USD 286 – a consolidated school district in southeast Kansas. We are a 2A school with an enrollment of 420 students. Being 12 miles from the Oklahoma border, our close proximity has provided USD 286 with the opportunity to enroll Oklahoma students. Over the past few years, this number has averaged 8.

The impact of allowing out-of-state students to enroll has always been positive for both our school district and community. This is shown by several factors:

1. Economic investment - many of these parents work in either our community, county or in the district. They also shop our local businesses, attend school activities and athletic events, and participate in parent/teacher conferences. Their dollars have a positive impact economically locally and for the state of Kansas.
2. We have found that the aided benefit of out-of-state students is being able to attract certified and classified employees to the district and community – which benefits us economically.
3. Often times, students are closer to our school district than the state/district from which they reside. Parents are always concerned about travel time to and from school.
4. All parents are concerned about their child's safety. We have found that parents who work in our community, district or county, like having their children close by instead of 20-30 miles away. If needed, they can reach their children in short order.

I appreciate the opportunity to present my views on this issue and would be happy to answer questions that you might have.

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Attachment # 4 6



Unified School District 217
P.O. Box 167
Rolla, Kansas 67954

620-593-4344

Testimony on HB 2092
before the
House Education Committee
by

Richard D. Spencer, USD #217 Superintendent
Rolla Schools

February 6, 2007

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear in opposition to HB 2092.

I stand before you with great appreciation to the State of Kansas, for allowing me to serve the outstanding students, parents, and community members of Unified School District # 217 in Rolla, Kansas. My exposure to public education as a child and teen has given me great opportunities that I would have never thought possible. My responsibilities now as an educational leader in Rolla, Kansas, are to offer those same wonderful opportunities to all children no matter what age, race, or proximity.

Rolla School District is located in Morton County, in Southwest Kansas. Hugoton, Kansas is to the east 15 miles and Elkhart is to the west 15 miles. The school district encompasses 252 square miles. Rolla is located 7 miles north of the Oklahoma state line on County Road 24.

This year's K-12 enrollment numbers, as of September 20, 2006, were 211 students. Of those 211 students, 13 are from the state of Oklahoma. We also have 2 preschool students (not state-funded) attending from Oklahoma, who have siblings already attending Rolla Schools. Many of these students live 4 miles across the state line, or approximately 11 miles from Rolla, in housing provided to there families by CRI, a large cattle feeding business. There are also a few students who have parents working for farmers or ranchers near or on the border of Morton County. Our district currently has a bus stop on the state line road where parents drop off and pick up their children. This is just 7 miles from Rolla.

The family that lives the furthest from our school district is the Kings, who have 2 students attending Rolla at this time. Their daughter, who is a junior, writes, *"I am very fortunate to be in school at Rolla. I came to Rolla my 7th grade year and I am currently a junior. I have made many memories and the people here are very welcoming. I enjoy coming here because the atmosphere is great and I am able to have my own beliefs without getting in trouble or being made fun of. Rolla Schools crack down on drugs, sex, crimes, and bullying, so it is not as bad as other schools around here. The teachers here care about each student and want to help them in anyway they can. There is always someone available to talk to you about any problems you may have. Rolla is closer to my home than any other school around. If I*

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went to another school in Oklahoma, I would not participate in any extra curricular events since it would be farther away and make my day longer. My older siblings and cousins also graduated from Rolla, Kansas who lived in Oklahoma at the time. I would be honored to graduate from Rolla High School. My family and I really enjoy Rolla Schools and hope that you will take this into consideration, so we can continue going to school in Kansas." This view is only one of a number of students that wrote why they enjoy coming to Rolla, Kansas for their education.

Why should Kansas taxpayer's dollars be spent on students like the one I just quoted?

I feel that it comes down primarily to a local community issue. These children and families are part of the fabric of our communities. Community boundaries do not stop at artificial (State) boundaries. These people are vital to our rural towns because they do business in our towns, participate in community events, attend churches and participate in other service organizations, like our volunteer fire department.

In Rolla's case, for instance, families may live 10 miles from Rolla and 35 miles from the next nearest Unified School District, which would be in Guymon, Oklahoma. It would be a significant hardship for these families to get their children to school in Guymon.

For generations, Rolla has accepted Oklahoma students into their schools, even when there was no state funding available for these students. Prior to 1992, the Board of Education of Rolla made a commitment to provide all students the best education possible, even though only local dollars were used to do so. Currently, the same commitment is there from the board and the administration.

Currently, there is major concern in our district that if we continue to drop in enrollment and in FTE funding, we will be at further risk of closing the doors, not only on our friends from Oklahoma, but closing the doors on our own Kansas students. When the school goes, so goes everything else. It is frightening to know that Rolla, Kansas could be just another spot in the road on Highway 56, heading east or west.

I would like to end with a quote from another student, Corie. She states, "*I really appreciate Rolla Schools because there are so many opportunities there. I have gone to Rolla since I was 4 years old. Not only have my three siblings, parents, and both grandparents graduated from Rolla High School, I would like the privilege of doing the same. My family lives in Oklahoma but my dad farms in Kansas and my mom works in Kansas. It would be terribly inconvenient to my family for me to ride the bus to Guymon or Yarbrough, which would take an hour and a half each way. It would be so far that it would lower the chances of me participating in extra curricular activities because I would get home so late, and I love playing sports. We practically live in Rolla because that is where all my family lives. I hope you give full consideration to letting people like me go to Rolla and be funded for it as well.*"

Thank you for this opportunity to share these comments and, also, for your consideration of these facts.

Testimony on HB 2092

House Education Committee

Presented by: Dennis Burke, Superintendent USD #508

February 6, 2007

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dennis Burke and I am the superintendent of USD # 508 in Baxter Springs. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today regarding the funding of out-of-state students.

We are a district of approximately 920 students in the extreme southeast corner of the state. Our district is comprised of some farmland to the north and west of us, but the majority of the district is the city of Baxter Springs. Our southern border, however, is the state line of Oklahoma. We currently have 29 out-of-state students, 28 of whom are from Oklahoma.

I understand the issue before this committee concerns the State education funding of out-of-state students. At first glance, I can understand why some might question this policy. However, as with so many issues that face the Legislature this one, too, needs some further explanation.

Our 29 out-of-state students are spread throughout the grades. The greatest number in any one classroom is two. Yet their number is significant, given the funding they represent to our district. In a school our size, the loss of this \$125,000 would be significant.

Why do these students attend a Kansas school district instead of one in Oklahoma? There are two primary reasons. First, most of these students live closer to our school district, than the Oklahoma school district they reside in. This better enables them to participate in a full school experience, including extracurricular activities, as well as in other community activities.

Second, some of these students are third generation students of our school system. Their parents, grandparents, and other family members graduated from our schools. Some students' parents and grandparents actually work within our school district—as well as other places in our community—and pay income and sales taxes, which contribute to the Kansas economy.

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So, why don't they move to our district you might ask? One reason is a lack of housing. Our community struggles, as many our size do, to offer affordable and adequate housing. Others live on farms that have been in their family for generations and their livelihood depends on maintaining these interests.

Most significantly, however, is the recent exodus of the residents of Picher, Oklahoma due to the environmental hazard the lead and zinc mines have caused. The federal government has committed to a complete buyout of the community, which means the school system, while in operation one more year, is a skeleton of what it once was.

For all of these reasons and maybe more, 29 students have chosen to be educated in Kansas schools. Through the years, more than a few have moved to the state and have become true Kansans. While it is logical to question why would our state fund the education of those students who live in another, one might also consider the challenge to keep our students from leaving our state once they have graduated. It is gratifying to know that parents are choosing our state for the education of these students. In many instances they work, shop, and own property in Kansas and therefore have a vested interest in the economic well being of the state.

Please consider the ramifications the loss of funding for these students would have on all of the students in the Baxter Springs school district. I would hope you would welcome, as we do, the idea of attracting students who can contribute to the future prosperity of Kansas, regardless of their residence. Thank you for your time.

KANSAS
ASSOCIATION



OF
SCHOOL
BOARDS

1420 SW Arrowhead Road • Topeka, Kansas 66604-4024
785-273-3600

Testimony on **HB 2092**
before the
House Education Committee
by

Jim Edwards, Governmental Relations Specialist
Kansas Association of School Boards

February 6, 2007

Chairman Aurand and Members of the House Education Committee:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to appear before you today to express KASB's opposition to **HB 2092**.

KASB believes that the decision to enroll students who are not residents of a school district should be made by the board of education of that district. If non-resident students are enrolled, they should be counted for funding purposes as if they were residents of the district. These provisions should also apply to students who are not residents of Kansas.

For those new to this Committee, this issue has been addressed many times over the years. The bills attempting to stop the practice always stemmed from the basic question of where a student resided. Not a bad question to ask because it allowed those in the Legislature to delve much deeper into the issue than the basic question allowed. And, most often, that discussion led to the conclusion that Kansas communities and school districts don't necessarily stop at the state border.

Well, in the 2005 Session, the school finance bill that passed (**HB 2247**) included language which stated that no out-of-state students would be counted unless the receiving school district had entered into an agreement with the sending state for payment of tuition or the district has applied to the Kansas State Board of Education for a hardship waiver. It went on to say that a student whose parent is an employee of the school district where the student is enrolled, whose parent has paid taxes on real property in Kansas during the current or preceding school year, or a pupil who attended public school in Kansas during the 2004-05 school year will be counted as a Kansas resident pupil for state financial aid purposes. This language was removed by both the Senate and the House during the 2006 Session.

I appreciate the opportunity to present our views on this issue and would be happy to answer questions that you might have.

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Attachment # 9

GALENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 499

702 EAST 7TH STREET PHONE (620)783-G499
GALENA, KANSAS 66739
FAX (620)783-5547

BRIAN D. SMITH, Superintendent

SHARON A. ANDERSON, Clerk of Board
RAY E. HOLDEN, Treasurer

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rer

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MIKE W. GIBSON
Vice-President

DONALD R. NOE

DENISE M. TITUS

LAWRENCE D. MILLER

WILLIAM L. VANCLEAVE

TROY D. WADE

February 6, 2007

Written Testimony
Submitted by Dr. Brian Smith
Superintendent of the Galena School District

Re: House Bill No. 2092

I am presenting this testimony in opposition to House Bill No. 2092. The Galena School District currently has thirty-five students who reside outside of Kansas borders. They attend Galena for various reasons. Some parents choose to send their children to our schools because they are graduates of Galena schools. Other students attend U.S.D. #499 because their parents work in Kansas. Five of our out-of-district students attend Galena schools because their grandfather owns and operates several businesses in our district. This gentleman does not have to operate his businesses in our school district, but he chooses to do so because he realizes that the revenues generated by his companies assist with the economic development of Galena, Kansas. By closing the door to his grandchildren, the state would be sending a strong message that his business is not welcome in Kansas. I am confident that his Kansas tax contributions would more than pay for all of the out-of-state students enrolled in our district.

Over the last three school years, the highest out-of-state enrollment occurred during the 2005-06 school year. During that year, the proposed law was actually in effect. The following table displays the enrollment numbers for out-of-state students during the last three school years.

Table 1: Galena's Enrollment of Students Residing in Other States

School Year	Number of Students Residing in Other States
2006-07	35
2005-06	39
2004-05	34

It is the position of the Galena School District that the current laws of the state regarding non-resident students are satisfactory. We do not believe that

House Education Committee

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Attachment # 10

GALENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 499

702 EAST 7TH STREET PHONE (620)783-G499
GALENA, KANSAS 66739
FAX (620)783-5547

BRIAN D. SMITH, Superintendent

SHARON A. ANDERSON, Clerk of Board
RAY E. HOLDEN, Treasurer

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WILLIAM L. VANCLEAVE

TROY D. WADE

House Bill No. 2092 is beneficial for our students, our district, or for the economic well-being of our state.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Brian D. Smith, Ed.D.

To: House Education Committee
From: Mike Nulton, Superintendent
USD 242 Weskan
RE: Written Testimony to the House Education Committee on House Bill 2092
Date: February 5, 2007

Dear Mr. Chairman and Honorable Members of the House Education Committee,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my views concerning the proposed HB 2092. Approval of this bill would eliminate state funding for out-of-state students attending Kansas schools unless exempted by the specific exceptions noted in the bill. It appears this bill is very similar, if not identical, to legislation that was in effect during the 2005-06 school year, and repealed for the present school year.

HB 2092 would require school districts to "enter into a contract with a sending district under which contract the sending district agrees to pay the costs of educating pupils enrolled in the receiving district." Since my district has no Kansas students going to Colorado schools, I can assure you no such contract is likely to be agreed upon. The last time I was required to approach the Cheyenne Wells school district with this request, I was politely told "No," but only after they stopped laughing. I doubt they have changed their view on this matter.

The K-12 enrollment at Weskan School is currently 120 students, of which thirteen are residents of Colorado. These thirteen students and their families make up a valued and vital component of our school and our community, no matter what their zip codes. Out here, our communities are defined by geographic isolation and centers of commerce and education, not by artificial boundaries on a map.

Most of our Colorado families do own real property in Kansas, but a few do not. That does not mean that they do not contribute economically to our state, as they most certainly do. Their affiliation with our school and community has a great influence on where they spend their time and money. Their children are involved in school activities and organizations, and their parents support our teams as they travel to various communities in Kansas. They shop in Kansas stores, they eat in Kansas restaurants, and they buy fuel at Kansas stations, paying Kansas sales tax at each stop. Without their association with our school, their commerce would naturally be shifted west to Colorado communities.

Should this bill actually receive serious consideration, I would ask that accurate numbers of students immigrating and emigrating be determined. I know we can determine the number of out-of-state students attending Kansas schools, but do we know the number of Kansas students attending out-of-state schools? I doubt the savings, if any, would be worth the loss of more rural schools and communities. Moreover, I fervently believe that this bill would result in a net loss to the Kansas economy and contribute to an unraveling of community bonds that know no boundaries.

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Most importantly, this bill would force educators to make a choice between two bad options. One would force them to turn children who desire a quality education away from our schools; the other is to take these children and teach them as we always have and in so doing, financially handicap our districts.

Thank you for your time and I urge you to not let HB 2092 pass out of committee.

Mike Nulton, Supt.
Weskan USD 242

**Written Testimony
For The
House Education Committee
Concerning HB-2092**

February 6, 2007

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee,

My name is Robert Loftin. I am a member of the board of education at Weskan, USD-242, located about 3 miles from the Kansas, Colorado border. Thank you for taking time to consider my written remarks concerning HB-2092.

At the present time, USD-242 has 13 students enrolled, who reside in the state of Colorado. Some years that number has been higher. Some years less than that.

In the mid 1980's, the school district at Arapahoe Colorado closed their doors. At that time, about one half of the students chose to go to Cheyenne Wells schools 12 miles away. The others chose to come to Weskan, 9 miles away. Many of the families involved either had a parent that was an alum of Weskan, or farmed in our district or simply were friends of ours. The choice to accept these students or not was very easy to make because the Weskan community does not stop at the state line

One of the key things to remember here is that, in those days, the entire general fund was generated locally. And we had just a many persons coming to our budget hearing then, as we do now. Usually none. We had the support of the taxpayers because they believed we were doing the right thing by allowing the student to attend the school of their choice.

I have wondered all along just how many students were crossing the state line in either direction. In talking with people around the state I have made the assumption that it would be a wash with about the same number leaving Kansas to attend a school in another state, as there are coming into the state.

As far as the way it is set up now, our Superintendent has to go to the sending district to ask them to pay for their students to attend our school, or apply to the KSBOE for a waiver. Well you probably can just imagine the comedy that that scenario affords.

I am very passionate about our school in Weskan, and I am firm in my convictions about this subject and could go on and on with reasons to continue including these students in our full time enrollment. But with that, I will place the matter in your hands. With the hope that you will do the right thing for all the students, because all of them will feel the effects, in districts where children cross state lines to go to school.

Thank you very much for taking time to read my testimony. I'm sorry I could not be in Topeka in person, but time simply would not allow.

Sincerely,
Robert Loftin

House Education Committee
Date: 2-6-07
Attachment # # 12