



Danny Zeck
Kansas State Board of Education
District 1 Representative

Senate Committee on Education

March 16, 2023

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 304

Chairwoman Baumgardner and Members of the Committee:

My name is Danny Zeck and I am the District 1 Representative on the Kansas State Board of Education and a former local school board member with 16 years of service. I am here today to testify in support of SB 304.

I am familiar with the situations at both Wilson High School and Wetmore Academic Center and in both cases, I believe that the provisions in SB 304 provide valid and necessary measures for the local school board members and the local citizens and communities they represent.

I served on a local school board for 16 years and I know that grappling with a school closure or consolidation issue is one of the most important and most difficult decisions that a local board member is required to make. Although local school board members are well positioned to represent the values, needs, and priorities of their local communities, it is both reasonable and rationale for them to need additional technical support, guidance, and expertise when dealing with the financial and regulatory issues related to school closures and consolidations. The current statutes do not provide sufficient checks and balances between local school board members and citizens in consolidated school districts, and the provisions provided in SB 304 provide a simple, straightforward, and reasonable solution that protects both the local school boards and the communities they represent.

The proposed legislation will help to minimize future conflicts and will help to ensure that citizens and local board members have the support and checks and balances that are needed to manage school closure and consolidation questions in a neutral and respectful manner.

The solutions outlined in SB 304 represent what's best for the kids and it is legislation that local school boards, state boards, and state legislatures should all support. Thank you for your time and consideration. We respectfully ask for your support and diligence in passing this legislation.