



Solomon School District USD #393

113 East 7th Street

Solomon, Kansas 67480

Phone: (785) 655-2541/Fax: (785) 655-3011

Justin Coup, Superintendent

jcoup@usd393.net

Testimony before the

Senate Committee on Education

on

SB 465

By

Justin Coup, USD 393 Superintendent of Schools

Madam Chair and members of the committee:

We stand in support of this bill as it is presented today.

I am expressing my enthusiastic support for the proposed addition of 2 mills dedicated to enhancing school safety and security within our schools, as expressed in SB 465. I understand the paramount importance of ensuring the safety and well-being of our students, teachers, and staff. Investing in comprehensive safety measures is essential to creating an environment where our children can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Allowing local control based on the needs of each district across the state will allow school districts to determine the needs and address them with these additional funds. School districts vary in size and need, allowing Solomon to address needs that cost more than the average \$5000 match we receive in the safe and secured grant. Although we greatly appreciate the \$5000 match we receive, the need for additional funds it required to upgrade cameras or add secured entry can quickly exceed the \$5000 match of a project.

By allocating additional funding authority for school safety and security initiatives, we can implement crucial measures such as installing surveillance systems, hiring trained security personnel, and even looking at new ways to provide secured entry to our schools. These measures not only deter potential threats but also provide parents with a sense of reassurance and peace of mind, allowing them to entrust their children to the care of our schools with confidence.

Furthermore, prioritizing school safety sends a powerful message to our community about our collective commitment to the well-being of our youth. It demonstrates that we are proactive and vigilant in safeguarding our schools against potential risks and challenges. As such, please support the proposal to add 2 mills for school safety and security by moving SB 465 out of committee. Together, let us invest in the safety of our schools and pave the way for a brighter, more secure future for generations to come.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Justin Coup

Justin Coup, Superintendent
USD 393 Solomon Schools