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Written Testimony - Proponent
Senate Bill 155
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
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Chairman Billinger, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 155, the full budget as requested for introduction by Governor Kelly.

Kansas NEA supports this budget because it continues to invest in all Kansans during all stages of their lives – early childhood through retirement. It continues to practice fiscal responsibility with increases to the rainy-day fund, paying down debt early, and providing sustainable tax relief for all.

Additionally, the budget provides investments in water, infrastructure projects, and healthcare – all are crucial to the future of our state.

This budget also provides school funding with adjustments to address inflation and provides a phased-in approach to reaching the statutory 92% threshold for special education. Kansas NEA believes that choosing to not provide additional funding for special education requires school districts to supplement with general fund dollars, which creates inadequate and inequitable funding. We have concerns that this would result in no longer satisfying the Gannon decision.

Research shows that spending on programs such as those prioritized in Senate Bill 155 stimulates economic growth in the short run and is among the most important determinants of economic growth and job quality in the long run.

As such, we ask that you support this proposed budget, and we thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts.