



**Oral Proponent Testimony on
HB 2139, Increasing the minimum expenditure amount
for school districts for contracted goods and services
House Education Committee**

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Chair Estes and Members of the Committee,

KASB is pleased to appear in support of HB 2139. Our member-adopted permanent policies support local boards' authority to act in the best interest of their districts:

1. School Board Powers

The State constitution requires that public schools be operated, managed and developed by locally elected school boards. KASB supports providing school boards with the general authority to act in the best interest of the district, unless such action is prohibited by law.

Moreover, our members support "legislation to allow school districts to reduce operating costs and increase operational flexibility."

HB 2139 increases the operational flexibility of local boards of education in setting policy around contracting and purchasing for the district. By allowing boards the option to raise the threshold for sealed bids and for administrative purchases, the bill responds to the reality that the basic costs of all goods and services have risen substantially in the 19 years since the Legislature last considered the purchasing threshold and the 22 years since it last considered the sealed bidding threshold. The bill leaves in place local boards' authority to set limits lower than \$50,000 in board policy. Because the bill maintains this flexibility for local boards, while also responding to changing operational realities, KASB supports these proposed changes.

We urge the committee to pass out HB 2139 favorably. Thank you.

KASB is a non-profit service organization built on an abiding belief in Kansas public schools. We have put the needs of students and K-12 leaders first since 1917.