

**Testimony
submitted to the
House Committee on Taxation
Wednesday, January 22, 2025**

Chair Smith and Members of the Committee:

We appreciate the opportunity to present our neutral testimony on HB 2011, a measure proposing a reduction in the statewide school mill levy from its current 20 mills down to 18.5 mills.

Our position is neutral, rather than opposed, based on the understanding that there's an intention to incorporate a "backfill" provision for General Fund contributions under the school finance act. This provision is crucial in any state education property tax reduction bill to ensure stable and equitable funding for Kansas schools. Property taxes are a primary revenue source for school districts. Consequently, a state-level reduction without a "backfill" provision could force significant funding cuts or necessitate an increase in local property taxes.

Either outcome would disproportionately affect districts with lower property values, potentially leading to larger class sizes, reduced resources, and diminished educational opportunities for students. A "backfill" provision would guarantee that school districts receive at least their current funding level, ensuring budget stability, enabling long-term planning, and preventing disruptive cuts to programs or staff.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Dr. Tiffany Anderson
Superintendent
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