



**Oral Neutral Testimony on  
SB 263, School Safety Drills  
In  
Senate Education  
By  
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**February 27, 2025**

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

KASB appears as neutral today on SB 263. As always, our testimony is based on our member-adopted legislative policy.

Our 2025 State Resolution reads:

*We support management of public schools under locally elected boards of education, including setting curriculum, staffing, financial management and policies, so that such schools can progress and meet State Board standards.*

Our Permanent Policies state:

*As the constitutional authority charged with the management of local schools, the school board is accountable to district patrons through the electoral process and must be the final authority on local management decisions for expenditures, personnel, facilities, and programs.*

And

*KASB supports evidence-based, cost-effective steps to foster safe and secure school environments.*

KASB deeply appreciates and empathizes with the Sandy Hook Promise organization's focus on sparing children trauma. We appear as neutral on the bill, however, because SB 263 interferes with our member districts' local control over decisions that impact students, families, and staff.

Kansas school board members are acutely focused on ensuring student, staff, and community safety in our public schools. Districts routinely conduct school safety drills as directed by state law and by local board policy that reflects community expectations.

Kansas school districts' emergency drills, including active shooter drills, are carefully planned and carried out in cooperation with state and local emergency management and law enforcement agency evidence-based input and guidance. SB 263 unfortunately would interfere with this local planning, practice, and guidance.

School board members, district administrators, and dedicated staff strive daily to provide safe, secure schools that allow students to fulfill their potential. We believe this is best achieved through local control over educational efforts to prepare students, families, and staff for potential emergencies.

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.***