

**Testimony on SB 111 Provided for the House Appropriations Committee  
by Robert Coleman, Director ANW Special Education Cooperative  
Thursday March 31, 2011**

Mr. Chairperson, and Members of the Committee,

SB 111, as originally written, would correct problems that were created last year in legislation hastily written and passed at the end of the session. The current amended version at least pushes the implementation back for one more year at least eliminating damage that would be done for this next year. I would respectfully ask that you support SB 111 as it was originally written or at least as amended for the following reasons:

1. If not changed it will cause categorical aid to drop, according to KSDE, for all districts by approximately \$50 per FTE. There will always be more dollars spent for winners than taken from losers, thus it will create at least the \$50 drop to all districts in categorical aid reimbursement.
2. For districts that receive additional funding it will mean that the additional money will bring them above the 75% cut off, and then they will lose the money for the next year. This will create a budgeting night mare and given that 90% of budgets typically go to personnel using the money would mean hiring personnel only to have to fire them the next year when funding is cut.
3. Districts losing money are small and thus the cost of providing the services tends to be more based on the mandate to provide services even if it is only for a very small number of children. Efficiency of size can not be gained in small districts. The loss of money will mean districts will have to dig deeper into local funding sources in order to meet the mandates of State and Federal statutes.

Again I urge the members of the committee to consider my testimony and vote in favor of SB 111.

Respectfully,

Robert Coleman, Director ANW Coop #603

Appropriations Committee  
Date March 31, 2011  
Attachment 8