

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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January 30, 2012

Honorable Marc Rhoades Chairperson
House Committee on Appropriations
Statehouse, Room 346-S
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: HB 2400

Dear Chairman Rhoades and Committee Members:

HB 2400 is an attempt to use our limited state funds for the students who need the most academic support in basic proficiencies. The bill keeps poverty-based funding for all at-risk students through the 3rd Grade. This is in accord with the studies that show the effect of poverty on academic readiness for success in school during the early years. After the 3rd Grade and through the 8th Grade the at-risk money goes to those students who are not proficient in either reading or math assessment tests during the preceding school year. After the 8th Grade, for any student who is not proficient in either reading or math, the at-risk funding continues throughout high school in recognition of the need to tailor a pathway to graduation for that student that likely will involve special support. This will provide schools the extra money that is needed for those students who are able to succeed in a non-college curriculum.

This simple reallocation based upon proficiency after third grade would allow the legislature to reallocate over \$100 million dollars. I would like to see this allocated to the base state aid for every public school student in Kansas. This targeting to those who are non proficient in reading or math is better educational policy and a better use of state funding for education.

I urge favorable consideration of HB 2400.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Colloton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

State Rep. Pat Colloton