

JANA T. GOODMAN
 REPRESENTATIVE, 41ST DISTRICT
 410 S. BROADWAY
 LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS 66048
 (913) 547-0565

CAPITOL BUILDING
 300 S.W. 10TH AVENUE
 TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
 jana.goodman@house.ks.gov



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
 REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
 CORRECTIONS & JUVENILE JUSTICE
 EDUCATION
 SOCIAL SERVICE BUDGET

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY

January 31, 2012

TO: House Standing Committee on Education Budget

RE: HB 2439, AN ACT concerning school districts; relating to the counting of certain military pupils.

Chairman Lana Gordon, Vice-Chairman Clay Aurand, Ranking Minority Member Valdenia Winn, members of the Education Budget Committee

In order to determine public education funding, enrollment is reported September 20 each year. Clearly, school districts with a significant number of military pupils face unique challenges to respond to rapidly changing enrollment. Thus, under Section 1, K.S.A. 2011 Supp. 72-6448, February 20 school districts may report enrolled military dependents not previously counted for funding purposes.

I have first-hand knowledge of the difficulties local school districts face as they serve the children of those who serve our nation. I was the daughter of a career military man. Later, I married a career military man and ultimately spent 42 years as a military dependent. One example that sticks in my mind is 6th grade in Florida public schools near Eglin Air Force Base. About a month into the school year, a new unit was assigned to the area. Suddenly 6th grade enrollment tripled, while 5th grade doubled. There was not enough space at the little school to handle this influx, so the district resorted to renting trailers and a store front to use as classrooms. Three more teachers were quickly hired, one to handle a combined 5th and 6th grade class.

It is true that military pupils and families are typically flexible and take change in stride. So we did have successful school year in spite of the initial panic and confusion. However, the local school district no doubt faced financial difficulties in adjusting to the additional student load. Cases like this occur frequently near military installations. Allowing the update count is a reasonable approach to mitigate these situations.

The statute is due to expire after the 2012-2013 school year. HB 2439 removes the sunset provision. I urge support for removing or extending the sunset to provide some funding stability for school districts that serve military dependents.

Representative Jana Goodman