

STATE OF KANSAS



**ARLEN H. SIEGFREID**  
HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER

Members of the House Education Budget Committee:

Ref: HB 2693

Chair Person Lana Gordon, the above referenced bill is designed to allow local school districts to contract with the Kansas School for the Deaf and the Kansas School for the Blind to provide services for impairments and conditions that are not related to the student's impaired hearing or sight. The bill is crafted in such a way to guarantee the services are not considered tuition, fees, or maintenance for the student receiving the services.

The bill is necessary because historically the home districts have paid for auxiliary treatment of children who have impairments that are not directly related to the conditions that qualify them for the State Schools. Because of reduced resources some local districts are questioning the spending of these resources. The Schools for the Deaf and Blind have requested supplemental relief for these students from state revenues. The State of Kansas funds Special Education for all public schools through a special fund and believes that funding should be used to assist these students with their special challenges. The challenges include, but are not limited to, serious behavioral disorders, cognitive delays, and autism.

The State Schools must serve these students based on their hearing and sight impairments and cannot just return them to an inadequate situation in their local schools. All these student services are mandated through Individual Education Programs required by federal IDEA legislation. These are special education students and should be funded by local special education dollars.