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**Assistant Superintendent**  
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Senate Education Committee

Testimony on SB 450

Kevin McWhorter, Board of Education Member Goddard Public Schools USD 265

March 7, 2012

Senator Schodorf and Committee Members:

My name is Kevin McWhorter and I have served on the Board of Education for Goddard Public Schools the past six years. During this time, I have witnessed large increases in our student enrollment numbers, amazing gains in student learning, and our citizens' continual support of new facilities for our students.

Resources do indeed impact student learning opportunities and USD 265 appreciates the work and dedication that have gone into creating SB 450. We believe this would once again allow us to start exploring the opportunities to increase student learning experiences versus making cuts and adding user fees. I would like to take a few moments to share with you my perspective on SB 450 as a board of education member.

- Base Aid - Adding \$74 to the base in FY 13 and \$74 more in FY 14 is a step in the right direction. Obviously, we would still be far below where we were prior to the cuts, but adding dollars back to the base would benefit all Kansas districts.
- Increased LOB Authority Equalization- Raising the LOB cap to 33% for FY 13 and to 35% in FY 14 indeed gives the local boards more options to consider when approving a budget. However, we strongly believe that before increasing the LOB authority, there must be full equalization of the local option budget and capital outlay funds. Currently, our district has a mill rate of 70 mills. 4.2 mills are being levied in the LOB and 3 mills in the capital outlay fund to make up for the reduction in equalization. Therefore, our patrons are paying a total of 7.2 mills more than they would be if the current formula were being fully equalized.
- Increased LOB Authority Protest Petitions - If the authority is going to be granted to the local boards to increase taxes to fund a larger LOB this should not be subject to any type of protest petition. Board of Education members are elected to make decisions that they feel are in the best interests of the students they serve. If local patrons disagree with a decision, they have a voice every two years to elect new members to the board. In addition, the petition process could create situations in which some communities support the higher mill rate and others do not resulting in "winners and losers" across Kansas districts.

In closing, I would like to thank each of you for your service and dedication to the students of Kansas.

*Den. Ed  
3-7-12  
Attach #4*