

KANSAS
ASSOCIATION



OF
SCHOOL
BOARDS

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Testimony before the
House Committee, Labor and Economic Development

on

HB 2085 – Amendments to the Teacher Professional Negotiations Act

by

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Boards

Also Representing the Kansas School Superintendents Association

February 26, 2013

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee on behalf of the Kansas Association of School Boards, with support of the Kansas Superintendents Association. We appear today as a proponent of the **Amendments to HB 2085**. The Amendments address several elements that modify the Professional Negotiations Act, K.S.A. 72-5413 *et. seq.*, by granting more local control to boards of education. The KASB "First in Education" plan which has been adopted by the KASB Delegate Assembly provides strategies for making Kansas the top-performing state in the nation for educational attainment. We believe the Amendment offers greater latitude in reaching higher goals for student achievement.

Specific elements of the Amendment that are important are the limited list of topics defined as mandatorily negotiable which will allow boards greater ability to make appropriate decisions in the local school district. Boards are given flexibility in the recognition of groups to negotiate issues related to those mandatory topics of terms and conditions of employment, as well as a periodic re-certification of the support of that group. Also, K.S.A. 72-8246 is proposed to be expanded to allow boards of education to offer differing levels of compensation to individuals employed in hard to fill positions.

Thank you for your consideration.

House Commerce & Economic
Development Committee

Date: 2.26.13

Attachment #: 3