

House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee

Testimony on Substitute for HB 2027

Presented by

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on behalf of United School Administrators of Kansas

March 6, 2013

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you on HB 2027 as a **neutral party**. USA|Kansas has a legislative position that addresses one area of this bill - ***the removal of evaluations from the negotiation process.***

USA|Kansas believes that quality instruction and leadership are critical to the success of our students. We support policies that sustain highly effective teachers and administrators. **USA|Kansas is committed to addressing workforce issues responsibly and believes that students are best served when we work collaboratively.**

Our organization has been a part of the coalition working with the Kansas State Department of Education to develop the Kansas Educator Evaluation Protocol (KEEP) program. The Teaching in Kansas Commission (I & II) included representatives from the school boards association, the teacher's organization, USA|Kansas and our member organizations.

Through this collaborative effort, the KEEP pilot program has expanded to 24 districts in two years.

KEEP is a good example of what can happen when we work collaboratively towards a common goal. In this case, it was creating a more robust evaluation system focused on student outcomes and success.

As a result of this ongoing work and the early success of KEEP, USA|Kansas adopted a legislative position supporting the removal of evaluations from the Kansas Professional Negotiations Act. As a member of the coalition, we believe there has been open communication and an opportunity for input by all stakeholders.

Our hope is that boards, administrators and teachers will maintain open communication and continue to put the best interests of students first. As you consider HB 2027, we urge you to consider feedback you have heard from all interested parties and, most importantly, to consider the impact that any changes would have on our students.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this bill.

The mission of USA|Kansas, through collaboration of member associations, is to serve, support and develop educational leaders and to establish USA|Kansas as a significant force to improve education.

Kansas Association of
Elementary School Principals

Kansas Association of Middle
School Administrators

Kansas Association of School
Business Officials

Kansas Association of School
Personnel Administrators

Kansas Association for
Supervision and Curriculum
Development

Kansas Association of Special
Education Administrators

Kansas Association of
Secondary School Principals

Kansas Council of Career
and Technical Education
Administrators

Kansas School Public
Relations Association

Kansas School
Superintendents' Association