



Written Testimony in Support of HB 2248

House Education Budget Committee Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. Chairman and House Education Budget Committee Members:

My name is Jennifer Bruning, and I am Vice President of Government Affairs with the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce. I am submitting written testimony today on behalf of our Board of Directors and our nearly 1,000 member companies in support of HB 2248, which would authorize school district boards to adopt a resolution to pass an extracurricular school activities budget that could not exceed 2.0 percent of the statewide average amount per pupil. It is our understanding that the resolution would not take effect unless it was approved by a majority of the qualified electors of a district.

The Overland Park Chamber has long supported expanding local funding flexibility over how education funds are raised and spent. Local control is a tenet of our legislative agenda, and it is paramount to proper education funding within our local education system. We believe that HB 2248 provides a step in the right direction toward giving our local community the opportunity to help fund voluntary school activities at what they deem is the appropriate level. Businesses in Johnson County expect our school system to be adequately financed so it can provide high level programs and course offerings that lead to quality students and eventually a quality workforce.

While raising taxes for local school financing may not be the right thing for every community, Johnson County has historically been open to supporting schools through increased taxes in the past. All of the school districts with touch Overland Park – Olathe, Blue Valley and Shawnee Mission school districts – have been good stewards of the money they have been given, and the continued success of these schools is very important to the business community, as it is to the economic development efforts of our State as it attracts out of state businesses to our region.

We urge you to support HB 2248. Thank you for your consideration.