



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION BUDGET  
TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2391  
March 19, 2013

Chairman Cassidy and Members of the House Committee on Education Budget:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB 2391** on behalf of the Olathe Public Schools.

The ancillary funding is a local levy provision that assists rapidly growing school districts opening new schools. The Olathe school district is now the second largest school district in Kansas with over 29,000 students. We were up 583 students on count day this year in September and have enrolled an additional 152 since that date. We have grown by 1670 students the last three years and over 2500 the last five years. We have opened 15 new school buildings since 2000. The district will open our 35<sup>th</sup> elementary in August of 2014 and the Board is finalizing plans for the 36<sup>th</sup> elementary in 2017 and a 5<sup>th</sup> high school by as early as 2018.

While the ancillary revenue is critical to opening and operating new buildings, the provision that reduces it by 25% per year is significant, particularly in difficult budget times. The projected **loss** for Olathe schools **next year would be 2.3 million, significant to our budget when other revenue is neutral or declining.**

The proposed change in the ancillary funding would still provide our local taxpayers with a decline in this levy but would do so more gradually, while providing some much needed stability to our annual district budgets.

This change in the ancillary funding statute currently impacts four (4) school districts in Kansas, and it is revenue neutral to the state. Our community has supported our use of this local levy to help us provide the facilities we need, and they expect, to educate a growing student population.

We ask that you pass HB 2391.

Thank you for your consideration today.