

KANSAS  
ASSOCIATION



OF  
SCHOOL  
BOARDS

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Testimony before the  
**Senate Committee on Education**  
on  
**SB 137 –School District Bullying Policies**

by  
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Kansas Association of School Boards

**February 19, 2013**

Mr. Chair, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on **SB 137**. KASB appears as a proponent of this bill.

As we have previously discussed with this committee, KASB members have adopted a plan for making Kansas the top performing state in the nation in educational achievement. *First in Education, the Kansas Way* has three core principles: raising standards for everyone in the education system, providing suitable finance for continuing educational improvement in all districts, and strengthening responsiveness to parents and community needs under locally elected boards and school leadership.

KASB and its members believe that circumstances where students feel unsafe, intimidated or belittled are not only morally wrong; they make it more difficult for students to successfully prepare for life after high school. KASB has supported state bullying policies and provided numerous policy and training services to help school districts address the issue, including developing a Handbook for administrators on Sexual Harassment and Bullying.

At the same, we oppose one-size-fits-all requirements imposed by the state without regard to individual district circumstances. We supported the concept contained in **SB 137** last session as an alternative to much more intrusive, expensive, and time-consuming proposals. We believe **SB 137** appropriately encourages school districts to adopt plans to address bullying by involving the local school community, not imposing new state requirements. We believe the requirements to post such plans on the district website and file with the State Department of Education can be handled without significant additional time and costs.

KASB urges you to recommend **SB 137** in its current form. We are committed to helping our member school districts address the issue of bullying in schools, and will work to help them effectively implement this proposal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Senate Education Committee  
Date 2-19-13  
Attachment 2