



Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools

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SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

SB 224

March 12, 2013

My name is Bill Reardon. I am an employee of the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools. Since 2008, I have testified before this committee numerous times to advocate for an increase in base aid funding to the level the Legislature pledged in order to settle the *Montoy* case. SB 224 achieves this goal of \$4,492 in base aid.

Why then, am I appearing as an opponent of SB 224? The answer lies in the method used in SB 224 to achieve a base aid of \$4,492.

In effect, most of the weights in the current formula are reduced in order to increase base aid from the current \$3,838 to \$4,492.

If you are a district with few weighted students, next year you will receive an increase in base aid of more than \$600 per child! These new dollars will be generated by districts that have large numbers of At Risk and bi-lingual students. We calculate that USD 500 will experience a net loss of \$16,500,000 next year. This would result in the termination of approximately 300 teachers! One out of every five of our classroom teachers would be eliminated, creating a dramatic increase in class size.

I suspect many, many other districts will also experience significant losses in school funding if SB 224 is implemented.

I am confident that the Kansas Legislature will not pass legislation which would transfer over \$100 million currently going to Kansas school districts that educate the state's most impoverished and vulnerable children to the state's wealthiest districts.

The redistribution of state school dollars to create winner and loser districts without a public policy rationale is not the Kansas way. The right thing to do is to reject SB 224 and search for a more responsible way to increase K-12 base aid.

Bill Reardon
KCKPS Lobbyist

Senate Education Committee

Date 3-12-13

Attachment 3

Unified District 500