

Shawnee Mission School District Area Council of PTA

A Powerful Voice for All Children
A Relevant Resource for Parents
A Strong Advocate for Public Education

Testimony to House Appropriations Committee

Chair, Representative Ron Ryckman Jr

Monday, March 9, 2015

Kathy Holscher, Committee Assistant, 785-291-3446

Kathy.holscher@house.ks.gov

9:00 am Room 112-N

SMAC PTA stands Opposed to HB 2403 – Repealing School Finance Formula for Block Grant.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to the proposed Block Grant HB 2403. We are proud to be among the conferees who were able to rearrange their weekend to review and respond to a 100 page bill, that was released on Friday evening, scheduled for hearing on Monday morning, and is responsible for allocating \$3 billion and half of our State General Fund. We are disappointed in the reckless and irresponsible manner in which such a critical issue facing our state is being approached.

For this reason among several others, the Shawnee Mission School District Area Council (SMAC) PTA stands opposed to this block grant proposal. We lend our testimony, in alignment with the positions and rationale noted in the attached statement submitted by the Kansas PTA. SMAC PTA will continue to advocate for the educational needs of Shawnee Mission students as well as ALL other Kansas youth across the state. We will continue to advocate for funding the formula.

We encourage committee members to focus on policies that will address the root cause of our K12 school finance dilemma. Consider “going back to work full time and picking up some hours at IncomeTax LLC” to generate the revenue Kansas is Constitutionally obligated to restore, to re-commit to adequately funding our schools and investing in the future of all Kansas youth. SMAC PTA is in full support of the testimony provided by the Kansas PTA and urges committee members to vote NO on this proposed Block Grant bill (HB 2403).

Devin Wilson

Parent, patron, advocate

SMAC PTA Legislative CoChair

Wilsonlegislative@smac-pta.org

Cc: Tash Davis and Linda Braly, SMAC PTA Co-Presidents

c/o McEachen Administrative Center

7235 Antioch Road

Shawnee Mission, KS 66204

smacpres@smac-pta.org