

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
Testimony on HB 2731
USD 229 Blue Valley
March 15, 2016

We are appearing today as neutral on **HB 2731**, which has been introduced in response to a recent Supreme Court ruling on the *equity* of school finance funding under the CLASS Act.

We are mindful of the challenge the ruling represents to legislators. We also understand the particular dilemma it creates when paired with our state's current budget constraints and, therefore, ask you hear our comments with the respect intended.

If the Court's decision were applied to the existing CLASS Act block grant, *with no additional funds, no mechanisms or weighting factors*, the loss to our district would amount to an estimated \$2.4 million. Indeed, the underlying premise of HB 2731 is a redistribution of the property tax burden that takes funding appropriated under the CLASS Act and shifts it from "wealthier" school districts to those who have less wealth – setting up winners and losers, if you will.

The Blue Valley district remains committed to providing a quality education for our students and to being good stewards of taxpayer dollars. To that end, we want to work *with* you to develop a solid school finance formula that provides stability and appropriately accounts for the needs of all school districts.

Again, we fully appreciate the dilemma you are facing and we continue to want to work *with* you to solve the K-12 challenges before us in a way that promotes the best outcomes for the students we serve.

We are happy to stand for any questions you may have at the appropriate time.