



February 1, 2016

Testimony in Support of HB 2486

Chairman Highland, Ranking Member Winn, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of Americans for Prosperity activists across the state, thank you for this opportunity to voice our support for HB 2486.

In an era of increasing capital improvement costs, and greater demands for state capital improvement aid, HB 2486 will ensure that the underlying intent of KSA 75-2319, to provide state assistance for projects in those districts with a lower relative property tax base, is met.

KSA 75-2319 establishes the formula under which eligible Kansas school districts receive capital improvement state aid for bond projects. KSA 75-2315 imposes a public notice and State Board of Education approval requirement for a bond issue more than 14% of assessed valuation. However, there are no guidelines or limitations on the types of projects which may receive state capital improvement aid.

Under the current law, voters in a single school district may impose an obligation on all taxpayers in the state. While it is not reasonable to have all Kansas electors vote in each and every school bond election in the state, it does make sense that elected representatives would provide ongoing oversight to ensure the valid instructional purpose of the bond issue proposal.

Nothing in HB 2486 would limit what types of capital improvements a local district could include in a bond issue proposal. It will provide guidelines and oversight to ensure that state aid is used to support the instructional mission of Kansas schools.

HB 2486 is an example of the type of close scrutiny we believe the Legislature should apply to every state expenditure and will ensure Kansas educational expenditures support classroom education.

Rodger Woods
Americans for Prosperity
rwoods@afphq.org (316) 617-7833