

**Testimony before the House Education Committee
In Opposition to HB 2504**

By

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Representative Ron Highland, Chairman,

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony in opposition to HB 2504 which, if passed, forces consolidation of school districts in the State of Kansas.

I have read arguments in favor of this legislation, including cost reduction. I would like to make some arguments in opposition to the bill:

- 1) The legislation, as written, does not give many details of implementation, thus possibly causing unforeseen problems.
- 2) It will decrease the level of supervision by forcing already stretched superintendents to spend more time travelling or trying to supervise on line.
- 3) It will make it more difficult for school boards to monitor what is going on in their districts.
- 4) Taking excess equipment and real estate by the state government for the shrinking general fund is not fair since they have been paid for, at least in part, by the local taxpayers.
- 5) It will cause the closure of attendance centers. At the very least it does nothing to discourage such closures.
- 6) Administration will place additional expense on state government.

As a taxpayer, small business owner, and voter I oppose this legislation for the reasons given above and urge the committee not to support it.

David J Hand