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House Education Committee
House Bill 2532 Testimony

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on H.B. 2532. I support the bill's language implementing personal financial literacy education based on my personal experience as well as efforts made by the State Treasurer's Office over numerous years.

I had the good fortune to attend a personal financial literacy course when I was a senior in high school. The course taught about managing a checking account, using credit cards, borrowing for a home and an automobile, and what saving and investing opportunities are available. Learning these skills enabled me to manage my own finances and to be prepared as an adult.

The State Treasurer's Office has been an advocate for good personal financial literacy education for many years. Individuals need to manage their personal finances, just as the State of Kansas needs to manage its finances – and who better to talk about it than the State Treasurer. My predecessors and I have been involved in many different initiatives to promote personal financial literacy, some initiated by the State Treasurer's Office, some initiated by other state and federal agencies or outside foundations. These programs have reached out to individuals ranging in age from elementary school all the way through adulthood. But I believe that a personal financial literacy education in high school is the best long-term way to prepare individuals to meet their needs as adults.

I recognize that the final resolution of this effort may have different language regarding the requirements and that the cost will have to be addressed, but having high school graduates more prepared to manage their personal finances will be a benefit to Kansas.

Thank you for your consideration.