

February 12, 2016

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you so much for giving me a chance to discuss HB 2596. The objective of this bill is to create a framework for a new K-12 Funding model that would be more affordable and consistent than what we have had in the past; or even the current plan the folks across the street seem to have issues with.

The premise of this is if a factory leaves Great Bend, for example, and a 3rd grade class at Eisenhower Elementary loses a student. The class count would go from 15 kids down to 14. Their costs for that classroom did not go down, but they lose about \$8,000. If they lost about 140 students district wide, and no 2 were in the same classroom, they could lose over \$1 million. However, their costs did not go down.

Now, that same student moves to Blue Valley. The 3rd grade class goes from 14 to 15. They get the \$8,000, but their cost for that class room does not go up. So we end up paying both school districts for the same student. But with HB 2596, if you did not close a classroom, your funding did not change. If you did not build a classroom, your funding did not change.

I admit, I am not an expert. There needs to be enhancements to this plan. This is where the KASB would need to engage and help fill in the gaps. But at least we have a frame work.

So, year 1, we get an average classroom cost per congressional district. Year 2, we pilot the funding model in one district per congressional district. Year 3, we launch it statewide implementing the suggestions from those who participated in the pilot.

On the LOB, the bill removes the lid. But, LOB can only be used for instruction and curriculum. However, the school utilizing it has to make that class available through the virtual school model to the rest of the state's districts. If Blue Valley wants to teach Japanese 1, 2 and 3, go for it. However, they have to provide it through the internet to other districts, and they incur the cost. So now we have true equal education. Under the old model, if a school used their LOB dollars, the state "equalized" with cash to another district based on an arbitrary trigger. Those schools then spent the money on something else. With this method, it is truly equal education across the state.

Thank you for your time and I will take questions when you deem it appropriate.

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