

**Written Testimony Neutral to SB 299**  
**Jason Crawford, Superintendent USD 283 Elk Valley**

I currently serve as the superintendent/principal for Elk Valley Schools located in the community of Longton, Kansas in Elk County. Currently our district employs 19 certified staff members of which 12 would be directly impacted by the change to the current working after retirement exemption. Our school employs many long time veteran teachers who are strongly tied to the community with an average tenure of 26 years of service to the district.

The following positions would be impacted.

Secondary SPED

K-12 Physical Education

8-12 Science

K-12 Music and Band

CTE Family and Consumer Science

Drafting Teacher and Tech Coordinator for District

8-12 English

2 Elementary teachers

K-12 Spanish

1 reading specialist/grant coordinator for district

Of these positions, our district is currently looking for a secondary math, secondary science, and secondary English position with no qualified candidates available. Our science position has been open every year the past three years and we continue to struggle to find a qualified teacher.

Without extending the current exemption, the financial implications to our retired staff would not make it feasible for them to continue to serve our community school with the new legislation.

We are happy that the legislature is looking to provide a long-term fix to this situation and to extend the sunset an additional year. Our primary concern lies within the future provision of applying to the state board annually.

Would the committee consider a multi year request to the state board?

Would the committee consider designating a district as a “high needs” district as in other categories.

Thank you for your time and service.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Crawford