

SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
Written Testimony on SB 512
USD 229 Blue Valley
March 16, 2016

Blue Valley is submitting this written testimony in opposition to **SB 512**, which has been introduced in response to a recent Supreme Court ruling on the *equity* of school finance funding under the CLASS Act.

We are mindful of the challenge the ruling represents to legislators. We also understand the particular dilemma it creates when paired with our state's current budget constraints and, therefore, ask you consider our testimony with the respect intended.

This bill responds to the Court's decision by redistributing the property tax burden that takes funding appropriated under the CLASS Act and shifts it from "wealthier" school districts to those who have less wealth. SB 512 provides *no additional funds, no mechanisms or weighting factors* to remedy the loss in funding for districts like Blue Valley.

Under SB 512, Blue Valley schools would lose **\$2.4 million from the Local Option Budget (LOB)** and **\$1.7 million from the general operating budget**.

The House Appropriations Committee is considering HB 2731, a bill that we believe provides a fairer response to the court decision and provides a solution to the most immediate issue regarding school finance. While not a perfect solution, it does provide additional funding and mechanisms to recoup lost funding.

The Blue Valley district remains committed to providing a quality education for our students and to being good stewards of taxpayer dollars. To that end, we want to work *with* you to develop a solid school finance formula that provides stability and appropriately accounts for the needs of all school districts.

Again, we fully appreciate the dilemma you are facing and we continue to want to work *with* you to solve the K-12 challenges before us in a way that promotes the best outcomes for the students we serve.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.