

Testimony before the

Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

on

SB 76

by

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Kansas School Superintendents Association**

**Testimony provided on behalf of the United School Administrators of Kansas, Kansas School
Superintendents Association, and the Kansas Association School Board**

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Chairman LaTurner:

Thank you for this opportunity to address the committee.

Our organizations stand opposed to Senate Bill 76

As school leaders we have long supported the Kansas Department of Education's ability to establish rules and regulations for licensing individuals who work within our public schools. The standards established by the ever-changing committees of teachers and leaders have always been some of the highest in the nation, thus, one of the many reasons why Kansas educators are held in such high esteem around the nation. We oppose any legislation that would prevent the Kansas Department of Education from having the final authority to issue a teaching or leadership license in Kansas.

Although our organizations have supported alternative pathways to teaching credentials within Kansas, they have never been left completely open to accepting any licensing credentials without completely vetting each possible candidate. As other states have established their own alternative pathways to teaching, our associations remain grounded in the belief educators should have an appropriate education, a foundational background in the subject matter, and at a minimum, expectations in the area of pedagogy and practical experience.

It has been through my experiences and travels around the United States as the President for the National Association of Secondary School Principals that licensing is not the same for teachers in all states. There are states with minimum requirements for full licensure which would only meet the standards we have established in Kansas for our emergency substitute licenses. On the other side, as we consider our Kansas standards high, there are states that require even higher licensure standards than Kansas.

As I am sure everyone would appreciate lower fees or even no fees, the State Department of Education has established these fees to meet the growing needs of the department. Like other organizations, fees have been established to offset costs and expenses associated with vetting the documentation submitted for the establishment of licenses. Even if the fees are reduced, I do not believe the expenses associated with the vetting of those licenses would be reduced. The resources would still have to be secured from another source of funds.

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