

Testimony

HB2599

March 8, 2018

Senate Transportation Committee

My name is Josh Alters and I am a Special Olympics Athlete that competes with the members of the Topeka Shawnee team. Today I represent all the Special Olympics athletes in the State of Kansas who would receive funding from this proposal. Each year I have the opportunity to compete in 7 Sports. I compete in Basketball, Bocce, Bowling, Softball, Volleyball, Swimming and Track and Field. I have been in Special Olympics since I was 8 years old.

I have been diagnosed with Williams Syndrome. Williams syndrome is a genetic condition that causes various developmental and health problems such as ADHD, anxiety, phobias, a short nose with a broad tip, full cheeks, and a wide mouth with full lips.

I was bullied as a Child and Special Olympics has given me a place to achieve great things and be accepted for who I am.

I've also participated in Global Messenger training, which is learning to talk in front of groups, like you today.

Special Olympics also has Healthy Athletes events to help us with eyesight and eating correctly.