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**WINFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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Dr. Nathan Reed, Superintendent  
Mark Littell, Assistant Superintendent  
Kent Tamsen, Director of Operations

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Written Testimony for HB 2598

House Insurance Committee

By: Dr. Nathan Reed, Superintendent of Schools, Winfield USD #465

February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Chairman Vickrey and members of the Committee:

My name is Nathan Reed, I am the Superintendent of Schools of USD #465 in Winfield, KS. We have close to 800 employees, as we are the hosting district of our special education cooperative. Out of the close to 800, we have roughly 500 that participate in the district provided health insurance.

I take the role of finding the best health insurance for our employees very serious. Coverage is paramount for so many individuals and families. Financially, health insurance is always a wild card, when budgeting for a district.

The reason I felt compelled to participate in providing testimony toward this bill, I know first-hand that our insurance costs are directly related to our PBM costs. When, as a system, we try and diagnose usage and cost spikes for our employees, there is never anyone that can give us answers. Our users are in the dark many times when it comes to their prescriptions and options.

From a layman's perspective, it appears that choice of service is compromised, if not eliminated by our pharmacy coverage. We have local pharmacies that are more than capable to help any customer. I cringe to think how this may alter their business opportunity, ultimately, reducing the strength of the local economy.

The greatest concern of working through the current structure is the carrier's lack of transparency. If there is a question, we have been passed from one contact to another, it can lead to a "dead end" with no accountability. As I understand, our health insurance may own the contracted PBM. The lack of separation in the plan causes concern, what stops overcharging in this scenario, which then leads to higher premiums every year.

I support HB 2598 because it champions the user for choice, the plan administrator to understand costs, and provide a better marketplace, allowing any pharmacy to attract business, which again, controls cost.

Thank you, Chairman and Committee.

Dr. Nathan Reed

*The mission of USD 465 is to provide all students opportunities to gain knowledge and skills necessary for successful living in a changing world.*