

State of Kansas  
House of Representatives

State Capitol  
Topeka, Kansas 66612  
(785) 296-7567  
blake.carpenter@house.ks.gov



P.O. Box 350  
Derby, Kansas 67037  
(316) 772-0886

Blake Carpenter  
House Majority Whip  
Representative, 81st District

Kansas Senate Education Committee,

I am submitting **proponent** testimony today for HB2487, seeking a change to the term Emotional Disturbance (ED) as a label within the K-12 education system. This issue was brought forward to me by Leah Grim, LMSW. She works inside the Derby Public Schools (USD260). Ms. Grim and I are merely seeking the change of the term Emotional Disturbance within the special education eligibility labeling. We are not seeking to amend the definition or how it is reported. By changing the name and not the definition we will be staying in compliance with the Federal Government, and will not lose any special education funding dollars provided by the Federal Government.

Ms. Grim and I have had many discussions with the Federal Government's special education department along with discussions here at the state level with the Kansas Department of Education. These discussions have been fruitful, and have lead us to present our case in front of you today. It is our hope that this body will look at this issue and provide approval for a change from the term Emotional Disturbance to the term Emotional Disability.

The term Emotional Disability came from a January 14<sup>th</sup> Special Education Advisory Council meeting. This is the term they passed along for recommendation to the State School Board. A large majority of the changes can be completed by the State School Board, but there is also a need for statutory changes as well.

If any of you have any questions for me, please do not hesitate to reach out! I can be reached at my cell phone (316) 772-0886.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Blake Carpenter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Blake Carpenter  
House Majority Whip  
State Representative, District 81