



**Written Testimony – Proponent on House Bill 2626
House Committee on Appropriations
Submitted on Behalf of Kansas NEA & KASB
By Lauren Tice Miller, Director Government Relations & Elections
March 17, 2022**

Chairman Waymaster, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support House Bill 2626, a bill that doubles the appropriations for the Kansas teacher service scholarship program. We submit this testimony on behalf of Kansas NEA and KASB.

With more teachers retiring or leaving the profession and steady decline in newly graduated teachers seeking licenses, Kansas NEA and KASB believe increasing the number of scholarships available to future teachers would help with recruitment of new teachers. This would ultimately help address the teacher shortages that districts across the state continue to face, especially those in rural areas. These scholarships are particularly helpful for those with great financial need.

The continued success of the teachers' scholarship program is dependent upon an appropriation of funds that will allow the program to expand. We hope that due consideration will be given to finding funds for this valuable program.

We thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on this bill and encourage you to pass House Bill 2626.