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Written testimony, Proponent

Senate Bill 144 - Making the high-density at-risk student weighting of the Kansas school equity and enhancement act permanent by removing the sunset.

Senate Education Committee

February 19, 2021

Madam Chair, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of Senate Bill 144, repealing the sunset on the high-density at-risk weighting.

A strong argument was made in the school finance study conducted at the request of the Kansas Legislature that school districts with very large populations of children in poverty experience greater challenges in meeting the needs of those students. The study noted this was particularly true where there were dense populations of poverty as is sometimes the case in urban areas.

The high-density at-risk weighting was created by the Legislature in response to the study and accounts for some \$50 million in funding directed to helping those districts with dense pockets of poverty.

We believe the high-density at-risk weighting meets and identified need and is critical to supporting district and school efforts to overcome the challenges these students face. To that end, we support the repeal of the sunset on high-density at-risk weighting and would ask the committee to support Senate Bill 144.