



Testimony before the

**House Education Committee**

on

HB2142

**Jerry Henn, Assistant Executive Director - USA-Kansas, Kansas School Superintendents Association and Kansas-National Education Association providing oral testimony.**

**Committee Chair Thomas and House Committee Members**

Thank you for allowing USA Kansas and KSSA to provide oral testimony on HB 2142. As written, we stand neutral to this bill.

USA-Kansas understands this bill to be helpful with the safety of all students in Kansas. By getting lead out of the water in our schools would be a positive for students, staff and community members that enter the doors. Being able to state that all schools have safe water to drink would be a great statement for them to make.

We USA Kansas was working on providing safe water in schools, we believed the best way to help our schools was to put in a filter first initiative. This simply meant that schools could place filter in line of any water that is dispensed. By being filter first, this could save districts very much money while providing the safety needed to keep the lead to a minimum.

The other issue we see is where could money come from to help districts? USA-Kansas believes should there be some federal monies tied to this bill it would be better for everyone. We realize there are some state money involved, but not enough to help all schools that need to make the repairs in our schools. By passing this bill creates an unfunded mandate.

These two areas are the main reasons USA-Kansas is neutral on HB2142. We believe anyone that enters our schools should know that the water they are using meets the guidelines for 'lead free'. Thank you for your consideration.