

February 15, 2023

Written Testimony to House Education Budget Committee
Honorable Chair, Representative Adam Thomas
Deborah Bremer, Committee Assistant
785-296-3113, Deborah.Bremer@house.ks.gov
Room 286-N, State Capitol Building

Opponent [House Bill 2224](#) – increasing the number of school days and hours that must be provided by school districts each school year. Hearing: Wednesday, February 15, 2023, 1:30 PM Room 218-N

Honorable Chairman Thomas and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to HB 2224 on behalf of the Kansas PTA. This bill increases the number of school days and hours that must be provided by school districts each school year. The proposed changes to the school year are substantive and without apparent input from the educational community. Nor does this bill include a fiscal note or any intent to provide additional funding for the additional days.

This bill is in conflict with two primary [Kansas PTA Standing Positions and Legislative Priorities](#):

Legislative Priority 1 – [Kansas Constitution, Article 6](#), authorizes the state board of education to have general supervision of public schools, educational institutions and all the educational interests of the state. The authority to change the school day, resides with the State Board of Education, not the Kansas legislature. Kansas PTA seeks to uphold the roles and responsibilities among educational experts and stakeholders to make recommendations about structure and length the school year.

Legislative Priority 3 – Fully Fund Mandates. Kansas PTA supports efforts to fully fund state and federal education mandates, to their actual costs, without disproportionately shifting the required financial obligation to local communities. At present, the bill is silent on the fiscal note while, again adding two weeks onto the school year.

For these reasons, the Kansas PTA is opposed to HB 2224. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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THE PTA POSITION

Kansas PTA is a nonpartisan association that promotes the welfare of children and youth. The PTA does not endorse any candidate or political party. Rather, we advocate for policies and legislation that affect Kansas youth in alignment with our legislative platform and priorities. [PTA mission and purpose](#) have remained the same since our inception over 100 years ago, focused on facilitating every child's potential and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.