



**Testimony before the
Senate Education Committee**

On

**SB 532 Establishing the Kansas blueprint for literacy; creating a literacy advisory committee;
directing the state board of regents to appoint a director of literacy education.**

By

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Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 532. USA Kansas appears in support to this bill. We support making literacy a priority in Kansas which we feel SB 532 does. For Kansas to grow and prosper in the future, literacy must be a focus. SB 532 takes the necessary steps to provide children a sound foundation in reading by using the “science of reading” as the primary literacy strategy.

The bill is very specific in it’s initiatives, objectives and desired outcomes in the blueprint for Kansas literacy. There are checks and balances built into the framework to ensure positives outcomes. The biggest key to success of the blueprint for literacy is the training of current teachers in the classroom and the teachers that will be entering the field of education.

A bill of this scope and magnitude has many moving parts. There are many alterations and adjustments that will probably take place before the blueprint is completed and ready to move to the arena of practicing educators. However, we feel this is a good start. The bill provides a very aggressive timeline for implementation of the various goals in the legislation. It is good to see the aggressive timeline but caution should be given to ensure proper implementation. The number of assessments and types of assessments in the legation should also be reviewed prior to moving it to the field. There is a good deal of work yet to complete on this legislation but as stated, it is a good start. For these reasons USA Kansas supports SB 532.