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**Written-Only Testimony in Support of House Bill 2150
Establishing the Kansas Hope Scholarship Act
Submitted to the House K-12 Budget Committee
By Kansas State Treasurer Jake LaTurner
February 14th, 2019**

Madam Chair and Members of the House K-12 Budget Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 2150. As written, this legislation creates the "Hope Scholarship Act" and seeks to give students and parents additional choices when experiencing the harm of bullying.

Under HB 2150, the Kansas State Treasurer's Office would establish "Hope Scholarship Accounts" within a newly created fund for students currently or previously enrolled in a public K-12 school who report incidents of bullying. These students are eligible to receive a scholarship to attend another public or private school and have a chance at a fresh start.

The Treasurer's Office would have a series of oversight responsibilities under the proposal. They include, but are not limited to, compiling a comprehensive list of schools eligible to take part in the program, continually auditing program active accounts, ensuring that transferred dollars are used for their intended purposes and reporting progress of the program to the Kansas Board of Education.