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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 14<sup>th</sup>, 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.

Generally speaking, I believe a child's opportunity to succeed increases when they and their parents are given as many educational options as possible. My office stands ready to administer the programs outlined within HB 2150 and would respectfully ask for the committee to recommend this legislation favorably.

Once again, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on this important topic.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jake LaTurner

Kansas State Treasurer