

Written proponent testimony

HB 2115

House Committee on Children and Seniors

By

Leah Fliter, Director of Governmental Relations

Kansas Association of School Boards

February 4, 2021

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2115. KASB's Delegate Assembly approved in January 2021 positions supporting comprehensive programs to deal with students who are at risk of failing regular education programs. We also support efforts to promote student health and safety through attention to students in the foster care system as well as addressing growing concerns about student mental and physical health.

Children who suffer from neglect, malnutrition, a turbulent family life or who are part of the foster care or juvenile justice systems will almost certainly struggle in the K-12 setting. They are more likely to need special education services and at the very least will need intensive support in the regular education classroom and in the community if they are to succeed academically and as Kansas citizens.

We believe the task force envisioned in this bill would help address many of the very serious issues that affect Kansas students' ability to succeed in school and in life.

Thank you.