

Proponent testimony on HB 2223, removing the sunset for the high-density at risk weighting

In

House Education Committee

Bv

Leah Fliter, Assistant Executive Director of Advocacy Kansas Association of School Boards Lfliter@kasb.org February 20, 2023

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2223.

KASB's legislative priorities, affirmed by our voting members in November 2022, state that we support the Kansas State Board of Education's vision for the success of each student, to include preparation for postsecondary success. This includes support for at-risk funding necessary to meet diverse needs of students.

The high-density at-risk weighting was included in the state school finance formula to help certain school districts respond to the unique and often intense impacts of poverty on a child's ability to learn and to become a productive Kansan. The weighting is scheduled to expire, or "sunset," next year. Removing the sunset date in 2023 would help impacted school districts have the certainty they need to plan their future budgets. If the legislature waits until the 2024 session to act, legislative intent may only become clear as late as May, giving school districts only a matter of weeks to react and to finalize their budgets in August.

Other conferees will no doubt testify to the impacts of the high-density at-risk weighting on their districts.

I'm happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Thank you

KASB is a non-profit service organization built on an abiding belief in Kansas public schools. We have put the needs of students and K-12 leaders first since 1917.