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To: [K12 Budget](#)
Subject: HB 2506 Proponent Written Only
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HB 2506 Proponent Written Only

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HB 2506

Proponent

Hearing: Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2024 @3:30 pm

I am writing in support of HB 2506 for numerous reasons, but primarily for the education of the whole child in the state of Kansas. This Bill proposes students enrolled in virtual schools be allowed to participate in activities regulated by the Kansas State High School Activities Association under such student's residential school district without a minimum enrollment requirement in said residential school district. Allowing students attending virtual schools to participate in activities under KSHSAA opens opportunities in multiple ways for our students and families who are currently learning or want to learn through a virtual education environment. This would be a huge asset to many virtual students who have wanted to participate in sports and activities, yet still attend school fully online!

There are numerous reasons students and families seek virtual education including health, emotional needs, financial home situations, travel experiences, and family preference to give a few examples. It is the responsibility of our state to educate all students and offering a virtual education is one of those options that is important. Having taught for Manhattan Virtual Academy for 5 years I have families across the state. We offer accredited classes and students can attend K-12 to earn their diploma. One aspect of brick-and-mortar schools we do not have the privilege of offering our students is activities and sports due to our classrooms being open walls across the state. This bill would provide that opportunity for families allowing students to network, make connections, and participate in experiences such as dance, band, debate, spirit groups, scholars bowl, KAYs, and more. Adding these experiences to their virtual education experiences will allow us to educate the whole child. It also offers opportunities for residential

districts to expand their student base and strengthen their culture and programs. Furthermore, I challenge you to look beyond our state lines and see the possibilities this has given students in other states, Colorado, for example.

Please vote to support HB2506 to offer students in Kansas the opportunity to grow their experiences and have the best education possible.

Lydia Huninghake