HB 2506 - Written Proponent Testimony House Committee on K12 Education Budget Authorizing students enrolled in virtual schools to participate in activities that are regulated by the Kansas state high school activities association.



Michael Austin, Legislative Director Americans for Prosperity Kansas January 24, 2024

Chairman Williams and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Americans for Prosperity Kansas Chapter, we appreciate this opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2506. HB 2506 authorizes students enrolled in virtual schools to participate in activities that are regulated by the Kansas state high school activities association at such student's resident school district without a minimum enrollment requirement in such resident school district. We hold the following positions on HB 2506.

- 1. HB 2506 creates a more equitable education system.
- 2. HB 2506 allows non-public students the right of due process.

HB 2506 creates a more equitable education system for all Kansas students.

Kansas is among 20 states that place unnecessary burdens on non-public school students who want to participate in public school activities. ¹ These burdens risk to hold back a student's economic or career development. HB 2506 removes the plight of Kansas students making an unfair choice between embracing their intellectual or athletic talents.

HB 2506 allows non-public students the right of due process.

Non-public school students not having access to KSHAA activities denies them the right of due process of a free public education allowed by the Kansas constitution. HB 2506 guarantees non-public Kansas students are entitled to equal protection under the law.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to pass HB 2506 in its current form.

¹ Coalition for Responsible Home Education, *Homeschool Sports Access by State*, https://responsiblehomeschooling.org/research/current-policy/homeschool-sports-access-by-state/