



Testimony before the
Senate Education Committee

on

SB 427

by

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Testimony provided on behalf of the USA-Kansas and Kansas School Superintendents Association

Chair Baumgardner and Senate Education committee:

USA-Kansas and KSSA stand in opposition to SB 427 as currently written.

Addressing the items added to the bill, I would like to start with board member's email addresses. We believe this is already happening. We also believe that most of the smaller districts have direct access to board members in their everyday lives. Looking at larger districts, these are in place. Since these board members are locally elected, school-sponsored email accounts would be expected. Any type of personnel email would be unacceptable.

We do not understand why these email addresses would be needed at KSDE. Seems to us that this is for any group that may want to solicit our boards. Totally unnecessary and would border on unethical.

To keep any type of decorum at local board meetings, giving any member the opportunity to add discussion items during new business is not healthy to running an organized meeting. Even the committee meetings here at the capital have a set decorum that is followed. Allowing interaction between the public and boards is also a local decision. Allow the board to use its knowledge of its own community to make decisions that will keep a meeting moving forward.

I believe most, if not all, districts allow for public comment. Once again, this should be a local control issue. For the state to make a law requiring this when the state does not know each communities' values, is just inappropriate.

SB 427 is a local control bill that the state is looking to gain some control over. The trust of the communities and local boards is actually the question here. Please leave this bill here in the committee and allow our boards to have their local control. USA-Kansas and KSSA stand opposed to SB 427.