

Testimony for SB 270

Proponent

Senate Tax Committee

Given by: Darlene Cornfield

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Chairman and members of the committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to speak in favor of SB 270.

President John Adams said, "The whole people must take upon themselves the education of the whole people and be willing to bear the expenses of it. There should not be a district of one mile square, without a school in it, not founded by a charitable individual, but maintained at the public expense of the people themselves."

I believe that the State has gotten away from that principle and is funding the institution and programs at the expense of our children. You see, through the years we have lost the vision of educating children and are now funding schools. This is not the same thing.

Kansas and many other states are beginning to see that there are many children who are outside the traditional system with financial needs to achieve success for their children.

Our current funding system is inadequate, as the many lawsuits have demonstrated, and you are even now debating other options. I would suggest that you could be the model for the entire United States if you would allow the money to follow the child! You could look at it as very small block grants, each having a face and a name!! You would still have districts for administrative purposes. The children would attend the best learning environment decided by their parents, caregiver, or whoever has that responsibility. Transportation would then be the responsibility of the family again not the school system. I am confident that once this funding mechanism was in place the cost of education would dramatically decrease, because I know you would watch every penny being allocated, so that no family would "game the system" or profit by having money not used in the education of their children.

This would be the best scenario instead of SB 270, but this is the first step the Kansas Legislature has taken in even looking at those children who do not attend public institutions and I am greatly in favor of that.

Thank you, I stand for questions.

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