



To: House Committee Children and Seniors

From: The Kansas Association of Special Education Administrators (KASEA)

Honorable Rep. Davis and Committee Members,

My name is Terry Collins and I am the Legislative Chair for the Kansas Association of Special Education Administrators (KASEA). Thank you for the opportunity to represent them here today as “opposed” to HB 2745.

- HB 2745 does not address the concerns presented around adult services. KASEA has concerns around adult services and would support House Children and seniors taking action to support students transitioning to adult services. But all school districts have the power to do is invite them to the IEP Team meeting.
- We believe adult services have been decimated over the past seven years. House Children and Seniors could do a tangible thing to support students transitioning by improving adult services.
- The survey results that Rocky presented are very compelling. KASEA wants to reassure Committee member that legal requirements are being followed. Indicator 13 of the federal State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report requires KSDE to review every school district, every school year to ensure that postsecondary transition requirements are being followed. KSDE’s target for Indicator 13 for the State Performance Plan is 100% compliance. Here is the percentage of compliance going back to 2009:
2009 – 99.84% 2010 – 99.11%, 2011 – 99.36%, 2012 – 96.24%, 2013 – 97.51%,
2014 – 99.73%, 2015 – 99.74%, 2016 – 99.33%
- When KSDE finds noncompliance they ensure that the district develops a corrective action plan to address the noncompliance and follow through to ensure the noncompliance is rectified.
- KSDE and KASEA, appreciate the data that families are not as engaged in the transition services process as we believed them to be. KSDE and KASEA will take this data and address this problem. KSDE and KASEA can do this through existing conferences, meetings, and professional development for district staff as well as through Families Together working with families.
- KSDE and KASEA only received these survey results when the committee did and we would like the opportunity to address it.
- The appropriate entity to work on this bill is the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC). SEAC is mandated by both state and federal law. SEAC’s function is to advise KSDE of unmet needs in the education of children with disabilities. Congress requires each state have an advisory council with this role for a specific purpose. The Kansas Legislature saw fit to add its own law (K.S.A. 72-

964) outlining how this federally-required council would be set up to meet the needs of Kansans.

- The group who came to House Children and Seniors never came to SEAC. SEAC should have the opportunity to work to address this issue.
- It is our opinion, that if this bill is going to be in the legislature at all, the appropriate committee to work this bill is House Education. They are working multiple bills this session regarding special education.
- The House Education committee members are concerned that the shortfall in special education funding may be creating problems. I think it is relevant to the Committee's concerns around the lack of knowledge on the part of transition coordinators. The reality is that many districts do not have transition coordinators and are using existing staff to take on the responsibility.
- This bill is a Connecticut bill. This bill may have met the needs of the citizens of Connecticut, but I am unconvinced this bill will meet the needs of Kansas.
- To summarize,
- SEAC should be permitted to speak to stakeholders, review all of the relevant data, and determine what precisely the issue is that needs to be addressed.
- KASEA would recommend that you address the problems, including funding, associated with adult services. That is a tangible thing you can do to help with this issue.
- We believe that using a bill designed for another state, before determining precisely what is the issue in Kansas, is a mistake.
- HB 2745 is unnecessary and repetitive. The things that the bill would require are already mandated by state and federal law and we have data showing that these things are happening. But if KSDE and school districts are struggling to communicate effectively with parents this bill will not solve that problem. The primary purpose of the bill is to develop a "transition bill of rights." All of these rights are included in the Procedural Safeguards that federal and state law require districts to provide to parents annually, among other specific circumstances.
- The reviewing, updating, publishing, and distributing of documents on transition services, by KSDE, are solely a function of the Kansas State Board of Education, as advised by SEAC. In our opinion, the legislature does not have the authority to weigh in on these functions. The requirements this task force would conduct are solely within the authority of the Kansas State Board of Education, as advised by SEAC. We do not believe the legislature has the authority to require this.

Terry Collins, Ed.S. 785-741-2202

KASEA Legislative Committee

Director of Doniphan County Education Cooperative #616

