



**KANSAS ASSOCIATION  
OF SCHOOL BOARDS**

Serving Educational Leaders, Inspiring Student Success

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**Testimony on HB 2048**

School district plan addressing child sexual abuse; establishing Erin's law

before the

**House Corrections and Juvenile Justice**

by

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**February 2, 2017**

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on **HB 2048** on behalf of the Kansas Association of School Boards. As we have done in the past, we appear as neutral on this bill, with recommendations.

This bill would require school districts to implement a plan to address child sexual abuse for each of its schools in grades K-6. Each plan would require training to assist teachers with awareness issues of the warning signs of sexual abuse, and provide age-appropriate instruction for students on the difference between appropriate and inappropriate conduct and actions that a student may take to be protected from sexual abuse. Finally, it contains a parental opt-off.

KASB and our member school districts committed to the safety and healthy social and emotional growth of each child. At the same time, we are concerned about any new mandate that increases school district operating costs and imposes teacher training and curriculum requirements, which we believe are the responsibility of the State Board of Education and local board of education under Article 6 of the state constitution.

We believe many, if not most, local districts already provide some type of sexual abuse prevention, and will continue to develop such efforts under the new Kansas Can outcome dealing with social and emotional needs of students and new accreditation guidelines. As a result, we do not believe the bill, as currently written, would be an undue hardship.

However, we would prefer that efforts to guide schools in these areas be under the direction of the State Board of Education, rather than state law. We suggest the committee work with the Board and Department of Education to determine how best to encourage these efforts without undue additional cost or regulations. One model might be financial literacy education, in which the House Education Committee worked with the State Board to encourage local districts to address personal financial education without prescriptive legislature.

Thank you for your consideration.