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To: K-12 Education Budget Committee
From: Tracy Bourne, Renwick USD 267 Superintendent
Regarding: Proposed Funding Formula – HB 2410

First I would like to thank you for the efforts you have made to develop a new funding formula. I know that no formula will make everyone happy, and that at some point a decision must be made to move forward. I am concerned about the structure of HB 2420, and question how well the bill has been thought out. My understanding is it was done over a weekend, & when the legislature has had two years to work on it that doesn't make much sense.

I have a number of concerns regarding HB 2410 that I would like to address. First and foremost it is concerning that this bill doesn't provide more resources for the students in Kansas public schools. It seems as if the money is being moved around from weightings to foundation aid, but in the end there simply isn't enough money being spent to adequately meet our constitutional duty.

I am also concerned that this formula doesn't provide the opportunity for those districts that are declining enrollment to ease the pain that comes with that situation. The old formula provided three options: 1. Use your current year enrollment 2. Use last year's enrollment 3. Use an average of your last three years enrollment. This allowed districts to plan and hopefully recover from unexpected enrollment drops. The new formula seems to punish districts by multiplying enrollment losses in year 1, 2, & 3. My district would lose \$369,000 next year, which wouldn't have happened under the old formula. I suggest any new formula provide the same three options for counting enrollment that the old formula provided.

To compound the loss of funding in this new formula, I would have to go back to my voters and pass a 33% resolution to keep what we have had for the past 4 years. If this doesn't pass I would lose an additional \$200,000 in the following year. When we passed the 33% resolution we were told, and shared it with our patrons, that we only needed to pass this one time. I think any vote that has been taken in the past should allow districts to continue to levy taxes based upon that vote in any new formula.

Finally, the old formula was thrown out because it was too complicated. This is far more complicated than the old formula, and in my opinion will not pass the adequacy test of the Kansas Supreme Court. I believe the Rooker plan is a much better option, and has been vetted by multiple groups in both education and the legislature. I hope that you will reject this plan, and move forward with the Rooker plan.

Thanks for your time and consideration,

Tracy Bourne