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TOPEKA  
SENATE CHAMBER

TO: Members of the Senate Education Committee

Thank you for this opportunity to address what might appear to be a relatively small concern. The legislature has passed K.S.A. 72-8260 known as the Jason Flatt Act. It requires one hour of training for **all** employees in a school district.

I am proposing a change to this requirement merely because the statute and regulation are very costly and for many employees – unwarranted. This increases the number of unfunded mandates that school boards must implement with each year. Please note that K.S.A. 728260 requires ALL employees – this is much more than teachers, paraeducators and administrators. This includes maintenance workers, all employees in the central office, many who never see or talk to students. In addition, this is the only required training (see list) that has a minimum time of one hour attached to it.

I am 100% behind the training for appropriate employees. In addition, I believe in suicide prevention training for many employees in a school district. My proposal would be to allow local school boards to decide who that is in their respective districts and to select training that is appropriate without dictating a specific time.

One of my greatest fears is that requiring an hour every year leads to the same response as other required training. It becomes so common and routine that its importance is minimized.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bruce Givens, Kansas Senator