

STATE OF KANSAS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



SUSAN HUMPHRIES  
99TH DISTRICT

**K-12 Education Budget Committee 2-14-19  
Proponent Testimony HB 2150**

I received the following correspondence addressing this bill from a Wichita woman. At the time of this account she was serving as a school administrator. Her education experience includes many years as a class room middle school teacher in USD 259.

*“As I answered the phone in my office, I heard a frantic parent on the other end telling me that her daughter **had to** transfer to our school because she could not stay **another minute** in her present school. The reason? **She was being bullied**. I calmed the mother down and told her that it was ok for her to be out of school for a couple of days until the transfer could take place.*

*The student’s first day at our school, she would **hardly look anyone in the eye**, never smiling, or connecting with other students. After a day or so, her shoulders started to relax as she realized she was in a **safe environment**. A week later, she was walking down the hall with students, laughing, talking, and smiling. **She had begun to thrive again**.*

*This was a common occurrence that happened several times a year. Students transferred from **both private and public schools**. Some schools **recommended that the bullied student transfer in order to keep them safe**.”*

Colleagues, as we consider this bill, on the important subject of bullying in the lives of young Kansans’, I call the committee to **think first** of the bullied child and their family or support system. We must not leave **a single Kansas student** in an environment where they are failing to flourish. Might this give them hope that they can **feel safe again**, and change their dreams into reality?

In Super Bowl 52, Toyota unveiled an advertisement with the slogan, “When we are free to move, **anything** is possible”. This bill simply says – shouldn’t this be true for a Kansas student trapped in an environment of bullying? Let’s **put children first** and pass **this compassionate measure**.

HB Bill 2150 would allow **more choices for parents to consider** when finding a **safe environment** for their child. Please consider **and pass** HB 2150.