

House K12 Committee Education Budget

on

SB 142

by

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Testimony provided on behalf of the USA-Kansas and Kansas School Superintendents Association

Madam Chair and members of the committee

Thank you for this opportunity to address the committee.

Our organization stands as a Proponent to Senate Bill 142

Let me begin today by repeating a piece of information school leaders have heard for the last few years, “by 2020, it is estimated that 71 percent of all jobs in Kansas will require some postsecondary education. Today, only 52 percent of Kansans have ‘some’ postsecondary education.” If we have any desire to meet the workforce needs of our state, we must consider expanding the opportunities and experiences for our students.

No longer will the traditional school model work for Kansas kids and honest it never did work for many students. Through the vision of the State Board of Education, local communities are being asked to rethink, reimagine, and redesign schools to meet the ever changing and diverse communities and employment opportunities which exist across Kansas. The education system which worked for you and me is no longer practical. Business and industry are no longer looking for employees with the greatest amount of knowledge, they are looking for employees that can create, examine, and adapt to the information.

Together it is our responsibility to grow, educate, and provide for the greatest resources in our state, our children. The USA-Kansas and the Kansas School Superintendents Associations supports SB 142 because we believe it offers a real chance to resolve the current school finance litigation and restore Kansas school funding to levels necessary for more students to find success in PreK-12 education, postsecondary education, and the workforce.