

Testimony before the

House Committee for K12 Education Budget

on

HB 2526

by

Dr. Jason Dandoy, Superintendents Turner USD 202

Madam Chair and members of the committee

We stand as a Proponent of HB 2526

Thank you for allowing us to share our perspective on the proposed amendment to K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 72-5462 regarding state aid for bond issues. Turner USD 202 is a school district in Wyandotte County that serves approximately 4,000 students. We are bordered by larger school districts and are proud of our small community.

Like many districts in Kansas, our facilities are aging and require long-range planning in order to adequately serve students. In 2013, Turner passed a bond to replace an elementary school and make safety/security upgrades throughout our schools. When these bonds were passed, they were equalized at a state aid rate of 61%. In 2019, the district passed another bond referendum to replace a middle school and make other facility upgrades but only received equalization at a rate of 42%. The reduction in state aid negatively affects our local tax paying residents, especially given the low AVPP in USD 202.

USD 202 is not opposed to the intent of the current law which is to establish a method to manage the budgetary expense related to capital improvement state aid for bonds issued to fund facility improvements. Our District believes that there is an unintended inequity in the current law based on 5 years of historical data. We support the goal of fixing the current law while ensuring that the adjustment include all bonds approved after 7/1/15 for payments beginning with the 2020-2021 budget. If a budget-**offset** is necessary, USD 202 supports virtual students being removed from the per pupil count related to bond and interest state aid. We encourage removing Fort Leavenworth from the formula with HB 2526 given they are not eligible to issue bonds. Because Fort Leavenworth operates within a federal military institution, they have almost no assessed valuation on which to levy taxes which, in large part, has created the current inequity. These modifications to the current law appropriately realign the law with its original intent.

Respectfully submitted,

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