

Testimony before the
House Committee for K12 Education Budget
on
HB 2119
by

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Madam Chair and members of the committee

We stand as an opponent of HB 2119

Thank you for allowing us to share our perspective on HB 2119. The Goddard School District, USD 265, is in Sedgwick County and serves approximately 6,000 students. We will serve as a host district next year for special education services for the Clearwater USD 264, Cheney USD 268, and Conway Springs USD 356 school districts. The total number of students in the newly formed Goddard Special Education Cooperative will be approximately 9,000 students. Our district covers 65 square miles and is a suburban district west of Wichita, Kansas. We currently have four parochial schools and two private schools that lie within the boundaries of the Goddard Special Education Cooperative.

We stand as an opponent to HB 2119 for the following reasons:

- We feel HB 2119 would be detrimental for students who receive special education services at a private school. Public schools are required to provide special education services for students who attend a private school within our boundaries. There are currently special education staff, placed by our district, at two of the four parochial schools within the future Goddard Special Education Cooperative. These staff members provide special education services for students who attend the parochial school. Providing services onsite for these students allows the student to feel more connected to the school and allows staff the ability to provide services on site to these students. It also cuts down on the loss of instructional time as students are not being bussed to one of our district schools to receive their services.
- We feel HB 2119 will drive up costs to provide special education services for students. This legislation could take millions of public dollars out of the state general fund pool to fund services for students whose special needs are not provided for by the state school finance formula. This would cause our district to change the way that we provide special education services for students in our private schools.

- We feel that HB 2119 will increase transportation costs. If dollars are taken away from public schools, we will have to transport these private school special education students back to our district to receive services. This will drive up transportation costs as it will require our district to transport the student to and from their private school to receive services.
- This bill will put a greater strain on special education staffing. We currently have a difficult time finding qualified special education staff to fill our vacant positions. If this bill passes, we will have to bring staff back on site to provide special education services. Creating schedules that would allow staff to provide services for these private school students on top of their current caseload would put a strain on our special education staff.

We feel it will have a significant negative impact on the work we are currently doing for ALL students. We are committed to helping all students feel success and appreciate our current partnership that we have with our private schools. HB 2119 will negatively impact families with special education students attending private schools.

Respectfully submitted,



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