



KANSAS NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION / 715 SW 10TH AVENUE / TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1686

Timothy R. Graham
Director of Government Relations & Coalitions

Oral Testimony – Proponent

Senate Education Committee

House Bill 2322

March 7, 2023

Chair Baumgardner, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in favor of HB 2322.

KNEA supports the spirit of HB 2322. We believe that words matter. Changes in law that use outdated, undignified, or even offensive references show people that respect and kindness matter.

Our only concern comes from our attorneys.

Title 34 CFR 300.8(c)(4) defines a child with a disability for purposes of IDEA as one with an emotional disturbance. It goes on further to define what an emotional disturbance is. KNEA would oppose any change in state statute that would make it more difficult to qualify for SPED funding or services.

It is our understanding that HB 2322 is written in way that would not jeopardize this funding. In addition to attesting to our support of the spirit of this legislation, it is our intention to flag this concern in the unlikely event that it hasn't been addressed.

Thank you for your time.