Lindsay Weiss, Affiliate Director for I Support The Girls Kansas City lindsayweiss3@gmail.com Proponent of SPED Task Force updating funding to 92% 1/2/2024

Good Afternoon To: Chair Rep. Matthew Willis, Vice Chair, to the ranking member and to all the members of this committee, thank you for holding this task force.

I am submitting this testimony in support of funding SPED in Kansas. It has been widely underfunded for years and our students, families and state deserve better. SPED hasn't been funded at the state mandated level of 92% since 2011.

This funding drastically affects every school and hurts those that would receive gifted services as well. My daughter is one of the 88,000 students that receive special education services and it took an incredible amount of advocating for her needs to be met due to a lack of funding.

We want better for our students, families and citizens. Kansas needs to fund SPED services.

I thank the Task Force Committee for giving this important bill a hearing. I encourage you to pass the update on SPED funding to 92% to meet the needs of our students.