



# Spring Hill

SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Testimony before the

House Committee for K-12 Education Budget – HB 2119

Thank you for allowing us to share our thoughts on HB 2119, creating the student empowerment act to provide an education savings account for students who are academically at-risk. Spring Hill USD 230 is a small, rapidly growing district with a student population of a little over 3,400 students. We are located in southern Johnson and northern Miami Counties.

We have concerns about HB 2119 being heard today. Any private school receiving tax credits and providing scholarships to recipients should have to meet the same accreditation requirements as public schools AND should have to meet the same accountability and admission standards as public schools. For any student moving into Spring Hill USD 230, we are required to allow them to attend our schools. If they have IEP's or 504 plans, we are required follow and meet those plans as well. Currently, we are receiving special education reimbursement at 62% of excess costs. We have been told repeatedly there is not enough money from the state to meet the state law level of 92%. Also, regardless of how far behind a student moving in is in their studies and grades, we are required to accept them into our schools. I've heard the statement, "competition is a good thing" and I concur. What I don't understand is why we have bills that do not have the same requirements for the educational systems involved? If private schools receive state funds, they should be required to meet all of the same obligations as public schools.

Thank you to the committee for its work on behalf of Kansas students. Improved student learning is very important and we appreciate the committee's work on this endeavor.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Wayne Burke  
Superintendent  
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**Board of Education**

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