

**From:** [Timothy Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Kristey Williams](#); [Holly Broxterman](#)  
**Cc:** [Frank J. Harwood](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: HB 2550 and HB 2553 written information  
**Date:** Monday, January 31, 2022 2:24:19 PM

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I received the following information from a Superintendent in my district. I had reached out to him last week for input on our pending school bills. I do not know if he submitted these to the committee also. Is it appropriate to include these as written only testimony on the bills? Thank you for your help with checking on this data.

Rep. Tim Johnson  
Kansas 38th District  
785-296-7677 (office)

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**From:** Frank J. Harwood <FHarwood@usd232.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 31, 2022 1:59 PM  
**To:** Timothy Johnson; Jo Ella Hoye; Adam Thomas; Jarrod Ousley; Sean Tarwater  
**Subject:** HB 2550 and HB 2553

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Thank you for your service to the residents of Kansas and Johnson County. I am writing in regard to two bills (HB 2550 and HB 2553) that will be heard in the House K-12 Budget Committee on February 1, 2022. Although I am not available to present testimony to the committee in person, I want to provide a perspective that may be important to constituents in USD 232 or Johnson County.

Starting with HB 2553, I do agree that Sec. 3 (a) (2-4) are important in determining which students are accepted as transfers if not all transfer applications can be accepted. However, it should be up to the local Board of Education as to if a district accepts any out of district transfers. This local control is especially important for growing districts. As we try to balance the need for additional school facilities to be paid for by local taxpayers, the final say in regulating out of district transfers is very important.

In addition to an encroachment on local control, there are other parts of HB 2553 that are concerning. Based on the current school finance formula, student enrollment counts are taken on September 20<sup>th</sup> of each school year. Although there are some exceptions for a second count in February, I do not believe this type of transfer would qualify. If HB 2553 is passed, students should only be allowed to transfer to a school where they do not reside once per year and before September 20<sup>th</sup>.

Another concern is the effective date if HB 2553 were to be enacted. Since school districts have

until January of 2023 to adopt a policy governing nonresident students, it should be stated that districts are not required to accept nonresident students until the 2023-24 school year.

In regard to HB 2550, I will start by stating that I am opposed to the use of public funds for private schools. Although we are fortunate to have some very good private schools in our area, there are not academic reasons that a student would need leave public school. I fully support a family's ability to choose private or homeschool options but public funds should not be used as a supplement.

When considering HB 2550, or other tax credit or voucher legislation, Sec. 3 (a) (2-4) from HB 2553 should be included. If any private school accepts public funds, they should accept all students in the order in which they apply without regard for the student's "ethnicity, national origin, gender, income level, disabling condition, proficiency in the English language, measure of achievement, aptitude or athletic ability." Additionally, no tuition beyond the public funds should be charged. Furthermore, any agency that receives public funds should be accredited by KSDE and be held to the same level of regulation and accountability as a public school.

We are fortunate in Kansas and especially Johnson County to have very good public schools. Although I understand the desire to support school choice, it should not come at the expense of our current system.

Again, I regret not being able to testify in person. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Frank Harwood  
Superintendent  
USD 232 – De Soto