

Holly Coleman

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BILL NUMBER: HB 2553

BILL DESCRIPTION: Allowing K-12 students to transfer to and attend school in any school district in the state.

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: OPPOSE

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY:

As a Kansas tax payer and parent of students within the public school system, I strongly oppose allowing families to send their child to any Kansas school district of their choosing. Not only are the clear issues with dispersing funds appropriately, but this clearly benefits specific geographic areas, specifically already (generally) better funded districts in higher population parts of the state such as Johnson County, Topeka, and Wichita. The students attending these schools already get very good educations with a wider range of options and services. Allowing them to gain further advantage through picking any district within a reasonable distance is grossly unfair to the smaller town as well as rural school districts serving many areas across the state. These students would have little choice if any at all due to distance alone, not to mention potential staffing and classroom space issues. Instead of allowing students to change districts, the state should be funding all districts appropriately and working to ensure that all districts are staffed, have safe and functioning buildings, and that the students are getting a reliable public education regardless of district, geographical, or socio-economic area. I strongly oppose HB 2553.