



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

Lauren Tice Miller
Director of Government Relations & Elections
Written Testimony – Opponent
House Committee on K-12 Education Budget
House Bill 2553
February 1, 2022

Chairwoman Williams, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to House Bill 2553.

For many districts this year, nonresident transfers have been significantly reduced in order to ensure smaller class sizes, allowing teachers to work more closely with individual students and better facilitate learning. House Bill 2553 would completely eliminate this local decision.

This bill requires school districts to allow students to transfer at any time during the school year. Yet, a school district cannot charge tuition or fees for a nonresident student. So, if the student comes in mid-year, where does the funding come from for that student?

Also, how are districts supposed to plan for these students, especially if they must be accommodated without funding? Specifically, how will schools be able to provide adequate staffing to best meet the needs of the transfer students in addition to their resident students? Or, to accommodate the transfer students at all?

And, how are districts supposed to provide transportation? Given the shortage of bus drivers, it would be unlikely that school districts would have the ability to provide transportation to transfer students. This alone would make the ability to transfer school districts a privilege for those who have the means to transport their student daily to their desired school.

In short, we believe this bill comes with a host of unintended consequences and would only perpetuate inequities, creating winners and losers for our students, our teachers, and our school districts.