

NAME: Lee Schuenemeyer

TITLE: Leawood Parents for Education

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BILL NUMBER: HB 2738

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written Only

To the Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for considering my perspective on bill HB 2738. As a concerned resident of Leawood, Kansas, and on behalf of Leawood Parents for Education, I am compelled to express my strong opposition to this legislation due to its potential adverse effects on children requiring or benefiting from special education services in our state.

HB 2738 proposes complex alterations to the special education funding formula, changes that could have far-reaching consequences for our most vulnerable students. Given the significance of these modifications, it is imperative that they undergo thorough evaluation by specialists in this field. I strongly advocate for referring this bill to the Special Education Task Force. This body, established precisely for such deliberations, has the requisite knowledge and expertise to assess whether the bill's provisions align with the best interests of Kansas children.

The importance of relying on informed, expert analysis cannot be overstated, especially when the future of our children's education is at stake. The Task Force can ascertain the validity of the proposed funding formula changes and ensure that any adjustments will genuinely benefit Kansas students without unintended detriments.

Moreover, I urge the committee to prioritize the complete funding of special education as mandated by Kansas law, in alignment with recommendations from both the Governor and the State Board of Education. The current \$173 million funding deficit not only compromises the quality of special education but also places undue financial strain on our schools, forcing them to divert resources from general education funds. This shortfall undermines the educational support for all Kansas children, not just those in special education.

In conclusion, I respectfully request that you oppose HB 2738. Let us commit to a path that ensures our education system is both equitable and adequately funded, to the benefit of every child in Kansas. The future of our state's education—and our children—deserves nothing less.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lee Schuenemeyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lee Schuenemeyer

Leawood Parents for Education

Leawood, Kansas