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# Seaman Unified School District #345

SEAMAN EDUCATION CENTER

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**March 8, 2018**

## **HOUSE K-12 BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**HB 2561 – Amending the Kansas school equity and enhancement act regarding the transportation weighting**

**HB 2697 – Amending the transportation weighting calculation**

**Dr. Steve Noble, Superintendent of Schools, Seaman USD 345**

Representative Patton, Representative Huebert and other distinguished committee members, I want to thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of transportation funding in Kansas.

Seaman USD 345 supports those parts of HB 2561 and HB 2697 that would clarify the determination of the line of best fit to match current KSDE practice and change the weighting multiplier from 2.8 to 5.0 as recommended by Legislative Post Audit.

Making sure that all students can safely make it to school and home each day is a top priority for Seaman USD 345. We offer transportation to all students because the majority of roads in our district are narrow and there are few sidewalks. Expecting students to walk to school is neither safe nor reasonable.

In 2016-17, USD 345 Seaman spent about \$2,600,000 to transport all students. The district received \$620,000 in Special Education Transportation funding and \$1,080,000 in General Fund transportation weighting for total revenue of \$1,700,000. The district made up the additional \$900,000 in transportation expense using operating revenue that could have been used for other purposes had the actual cost of transporting students been fully reimbursed.

LPA estimated that Seaman USD 345 would lose another \$112,000 (12% of General Fund transportation funding) in 2017-18 if action is not taken to statutorily define the process for determining the line of best fit to match current practice. The proposed loss would cause the district's non-reimbursed transportation expenses to exceed \$1,000,000.

The previously mentioned LPA audit of school district transportation expenses also included a recommendation to increase the multiplier in the transportation formula. We support the increased multiplier to help reduce the gap in funding that would allow us to allocate operating expenses to other areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill and I will stand for any questions at the appropriate time.