



Testimony before the

House Education

on

HB 2183

by

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Kansas School Superintendents Association**

**Testimony provided on behalf of the United School Administrators of Kansas, Kansas School
Superintendents Association, and the Kansas Association of School Boards**

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Chairman:

Thank you for this opportunity to share with the committee.

My organizations stand opposed of House Bill 2183.

The integration of computer science classes into Kansas schools has long been a commitment of the school districts of Kansas. Over the years the classes have gone through a number of changes and even course titles. During my 24 year tenure as a teacher and principal, computer classes have gone from basic programing and skill development, to application (software based), coding, and everything in between.

Some of these classes might have been required, others recommended, and a few just simply available. Although these classes might look and sound different, the purpose is the same, each class is designed to fit the individual needs of the students, school, and community at a given period of time. I'm sure the underlying principles of a required computer science class might appear to be appropriate, but understanding the host of classes currently available to students, I think it would be difficult to design a class for the high school that would be beneficial to all students.

The reality is that it looks and feels different depending on a student's personal background, experiences, and opportunities and that's tough to determine in a bill or a curriculum coming from Topeka. These again, are decisions better left to the local level.

Moving forward we oppose this bill not because the concept is bad, but because school districts already understand the importance and are implementing the curriculum to meet their local needs and helping their students prepare for their future.