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Oral opponent testimony on HB 2573, requiring students to take a civics test to receive a high school diploma

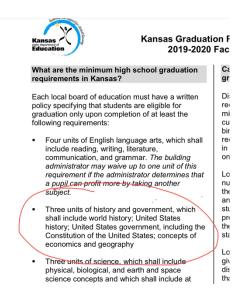
By Leah Fliter, Advocacy and Outreach Specialist, KASB

February 11, 2020

Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee,

KASB appears today as an opponent of HB 2573. Our legislative policies, reaffirmed by our Delegate Assembly on December 8, 2019, state that a district's curriculum should be established by the local board of education, not state statute, as long as the district meets state accreditation requirements.

Additionally, students in the state's public high schools are already required to take three units of history and government in order to graduate. As a result, this bill is unnecessary, duplicative and intrudes on the State Board of Education's constitutional authority over public schools. See below:



We need only look to the numerous school tours of this beautiful Statehouse to see Kansas civics education in action. And only two weeks ago, students from Seaman High School testified eloquently and ably in the House Federal and State Affairs Committee in support of a bill they requested that would establish Election Day as a state holiday. No doubt many members of this committee can cite similar examples of high-performing, civically-aware students in their legislative districts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify; I'm happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.