

Testimony
Opponent of HB 2150
K-12 Education Budget Committee
February 14, 2019

Chair Williams and K-12 Education Budget committee.

I am Jerry Henn. I am the Assistant Executive Director of United School Administrators of Kansas. I am here representing USA of Kansas and KSSA, Kansas School Superintendents Association.

Bullying has been a major focus in our schools for many years. We want that to continue. Our schools, communities, and lives do not need bullying at all. All bullying must stop so people can live their lives without any form of bullying from anyone and it must start with us as adults.

With that said, this bill is not a bullying bill. The Kansas Hope scholarship is all about vouchers in Kansas. By my understanding the bill would allow any student that simply reports a bullying incident to be eligible for this scholarship. I would hope no students or parents would 'cry wolf' just to allow a change of schools to improve their situation. How does giving a student a 'voucher' to attend a different school curb any type of bullying behavior? We do not believe this bill will help stop any type of bullying at any school.

Once again, our understanding of the bill is that a private school does not have the same requirement to accept the student if they choose to transfer to their school as public schools do. We have a belief that these public monies should not be spent in private institutions. We hold firm that public tax should be spent in public schools.

Our other issue with this bill seems to be nothing tied to a false claim. What happens if the reported bullying is not true? Will the student that reported this claim not be allowed to leave? Will the money be place with the treasurer even though the claim is false? How will the money be returned back to the district? Many unanswered questions.

We believe that bullying is a topic that our schools work constantly on and work with our students to prevent issues. Building relationships with students and parents is a good way to help prevent bullying issues. USA Kansas and KSSA stand opposed to HB 2150 and I stand for any questions you may have at the appropriate time.