



February 14, 2019

Chairwoman Williams and Members of Committee,

Thank you for holding this hearing and for the opportunity to provide testimony.

My name is Elizabeth Patton and I am the Deputy State Director of Americans for Prosperity—Kansas. On behalf of the thousands of activists across our state, we urge you to support House Bill 2150, which would expand educational opportunities for students that are subject to incidents of bullying in our public schools.

Under the provisions of this bill, students who have reported incidents of bullying would be eligible to receive a scholarship to attend a school that best fits their unique educational needs, interests, and abilities – providing each student with the best foundation for an enriched life. Families would also be able to use the scholarships to cover the cost of textbooks and other supplies as well as transportation fees.

Every child in Kansas should have access to a quality education allowing them to discover, develop, and apply their unique talents to find lifelong fulfillment and contribute to their community. This opportunity should be available to all students – regardless of income or zip code. We encourage legislators to work on solutions that extend educational opportunities to all the families in our state. When families are equipped with a diversity of tools, they can make the best decisions regarding the education of their children.

This includes making sure families can trust their school to offer the proper educational environment in which their children can learn without being harassed or being subject to physical or emotional violence. House Bill 2150 is an important first step forward in giving more students access to an environment that is fully conducive to their academic growth.

It is for these reasons that we respectfully ask for your favorable support of H.B. 2150.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Patton

Deputy State Director
Americans for Prosperity-Kansas