

Testimony on **SB 138**
before the
Senate Education Committee

by

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Madam Chair, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear today on **SB 138**, which creates the Kansas Autism Task Force to study issues relating to the needs and services available to persons with autism.

KASB has not adopted a position on the need for the creation of such a task force, but we are well aware of the potential impact issues raised by this bill could have on school district programs such as special education. Our members have adopted a position that “school board representatives should be included in any state-initiated planning, advisory or decision-making process that affects public education.” We therefore support the provision of this bill providing that one of the 13 members of the task force is to be a local school board member (page one of the bill, lines 42-43).

Including school board representation makes it more likely that recommendations developed by this process will take into account the concerns of local school districts and could be supported by the members of KASB.

Thank you, and I would be happy to answer any questions.