

Testimony on **SB 384**  
before the  
**Senate Education Committee**  
by

**Jim Edwards, Governmental Relations Specialist**  
Kansas Association of School Boards

**March 21, 2007**

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

I thank you for the opportunity to appear in support of the general concepts of **SB 384**.

For the last five months, the Kansas Association of School Boards has been working closely with individuals at the state and national levels in the area of early childhood education. KASB was asked by the National Association of School Boards' Center for Public Education and the Pew Foundation to be one of three states to study current offerings and the impacts these offerings were having on pre-K students. Kansas was joined by Texas and Ohio in this two-year project.

We believe the bill, and its individual points, will ultimately allow Kansas to provide services that will be instrumental in bringing pre-K children to school house doors ready and eager to learn. We believe items one through 12 of **SB 384** will assist in doing exactly that. Those of you who have read the bill closely might be asking why item 13 was not included. Our concern with item 13 pertains to possible conflicts with Article 6, Sections 2 and 5 of the Kansas Constitution. In addition, as the Legislature looks to providing the needed early childhood education programs, it might be important that we not add another agency of state government into the mix, especially a new one.

Second, we would question whether Sections 2 and 3 of **SB 384**, get ahead of discussions by seemingly creating memorandums of understanding before the recommendations from LEPC and the 2010 Commission are known.

In ending my testimony I say once again that we believe the bill, and its individual points, will ultimately allow Kansas to provide services that will be instrumental in bringing pre-K children to school house doors ready and eager to learn. That is a very important bottom line.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of **SB 384** as well as your consideration of this important measure. I would stand for questions.

## **Article 6**

### **§ 2: State board of education and state board of regents.**

*(a) The legislature shall provide for a state board of education which shall have general supervision of public schools, educational institutions and all the educational interests of the state, except educational functions delegated by law to the state board of regents. The state board of education shall perform such other duties as may be provided by law.*

**§ 5: Local public schools.** *Local public schools under the general supervision of the state board of education shall be maintained, developed and operated by locally elected boards. When authorized by law, such boards may make and carry out agreements for cooperative operation and administration of educational programs under the general supervision of the state board of education, but such agreements shall be subject to limitation, change or termination by the legislature.*