

Testimony before the
Senate Education Committee

on
SB 528

by

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Madam Chair, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to appear on behalf of **SB 528**. Our members are acutely aware good health is an essential building block for academic success. We believe this bill addresses the issue of improving student health in a manner that is consistent with several of our expressed policy positions.

From a broad perspective, KASB believes whenever costs are incurred by local school districts that can be attributed to actions of any agency acting under state authority, those costs should be reimbursed to the school district by the State of Kansas. New curriculum and program requirements should not be imposed unless the change has received an independent cost study and additional funding is provided by the state or the change endorsed by KASB. From a more narrow perspective, our members believe student wellness and nutrition policies should be determined locally in compliance with federal regulations under the national student meals program. KASB supports state assistance in promoting student health rather than additional state regulations.

This bill works well within the parameters our members have developed. First, all of the language is permissive, not mandatory. That allows districts to match their community values with the health initiatives they choose to pursue. The block grant approach is a complementary financial route in that the districts that envision improved health programs, work to turn them into ones that can be implemented, and can develop a budget that supports the program would have the opportunity to generate a funding stream. That kind of incentive will motivate districts to work hard to develop plans that are effective and fit the community the district serves.

Thank you for your consideration.