



Oral proponent testimony before the

**Senate Select Committee on Education Finance**

on

**SB 450 - — Amending the school finance transportation weighting calculation to use density and per capita allowance.**

by

**Mark Tallman, Associate Executive Director, Kansas Association of School Boards**

**March 21, 2018**

Madam Chairwoman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on **SB 450**. As we understand the bill, the purpose is to codify in state law a system of minimum payment calculations for state transportation aid, similar to the system which has been used by the Kansas State Department of Education for many years. We support that intent.

Without passage of this bill, a number of large, densely populated districts will lose transportation funding. The Legislative Post Audit study on transportation concluded these additional payments were likely justified because of the regular formula appears to understate their costs.

Therefore, failure to enact this legislation will reduce state aid which has been used for its intended purpose of safely transporting students who live more than 2.5 miles from school, as required by law. These districts would either have to reduce transportation services to students who live less than 2.5 miles from school, shift funding from other district programs, or attempt to recover those revenues from student fees. None of those options will help improve student outcomes in our largest districts, which educate the largest numbers of students.

In fact, the Post Audit study indicated the entire transportation aid system is underfunded. We would encourage this committee to consider that finding, as well. However, we believe the intent of this bill is the minimum step which should be taken.

Thank you for your consideration.