



SHAWNEE MISSION SCHOOL DISTRICT

March 25, 2019

Members of the Shawnee Mission School District legislative delegation,

We have reviewed Senate Bill 142, House Substitute for Senate Bill 16, and Substitute for House Bill 2395.

We have a great appreciation for the work put into all three bills and the efforts to raise a number of policy issues we believe are beneficial to the district and those we serve. The House bills include some issues we support strongly including funding, beginning to address behavioral health needs, modifications to the bond cap, and a few other issues. The House bills also raise issues in conflict with our Legislative Platform including special education, transportation, elimination of cost of living increases, and funding directed to targeted initiatives. These issues can be addressed during the wrap up session or next session and they should not put at risk the Gannon remedy.

The two House bills taken together offer equivalent funding to the Senate bill, but for only two years. Moreover, the total funding is not funded at the level and manner the Court has suggested, the State Board of Education has approved, and the Governor has proposed in her budget. Senate Bill 142 satisfies the fundamental issue the Court has raised with the Legislature and the Governor.

We oppose House Substitute for Senate Bill 16 and Substitute for House Bill 2395. However, we do support Senate Bill 142.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rick Atha".

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