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Healthy People Build Strong Communities

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Proponent Testimony on HB 2754

Submitted To

Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

By

Randy Bowman, Executive Director

Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD)

March 19, 2024

On behalf of the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD) and our 100 member Health Departments, I appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony on House Bill 2754. We are a proponent for this bill.

This bill would amend K.S.A. 19-101a to authorize counties to use home rule powers to exempt from conducting school sanitary inspections. Those inspections are defined in K.S.A. 65-202 and require the county's local health officer to make a sanitary inspection of each school building and grounds upon the opening of each fall term of school and to make such additional inspections as are necessary.

This bill would restore the ability of Boards of County Commissioners to work with stakeholders in their community to determine whether such inspections are done by the local health officer or by others. A long-standing local decision-making authority that was unnecessarily changed in the 2020 special session.

We ask you to support this bill by voting it favorably from this Committee, and recommending its passage by the Kansas House.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this discussion.