

We (USA, KNEA and KASB) have just been approached by state political leaders to plead with our members to attend the Legislative Forums in their area when they are held during this recess of the legislature.

The leadership in each house is saying that not many educators show up and voice their opinions when these forums are being held, so they must be satisfied with what is going on in the legislature.

My thought is that we have either given up because we think there is no hope or we think the Supreme Court will supply a safety net for us or we don't understand the issues.

The proposed legislation that looks like it will be passed is very disqualifying for school districts in the different provisions of the bill and allows districts with wealth to be able to tax their citizens to increase their budgets where poorer districts may have the authority, but are not willing or able to, tax their citizens more. The problem is it takes many fewer mills levied to raise a substantial amount of money in districts with high valuation than it does in district with low valuation.

The legislature is simply passing the duty of raising taxes to properly support education to the local school boards instead of stepping up and doing it statewide in a fair and equitable way.

To take a look at the bill and what the net effect is for your district and others go to www.ksde.org and under 'News/Hot Topics' click on the Conference Committee Report of HB 2247.

The discussion of school finance and the job of the legislature is far from over. We feel the Court will not be satisfied and they will have to do more work before the Court is satisfied.

Get out there and let your feelings be known.

United School Administrators of Kansas
515 S. Kansas Avenue, Suite 201
Topeka, Kansas 66603-3415
Phone: 785-232-6566
FAX: 785-232-9776
Web Site: www.usa-ks.org
email: jmenze@usa-ks.org