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**Testimony on SB 538
Senate Transportation Committee**

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The mission of United School Administrators of Kansas (USA|Kansas*), through collaboration of member associations, is to serve, support, and develop educational leaders and to establish USA|Kansas as a significant force to improve education.

This testimony is provided in support of SB 538, which would amend K.S.A. 8-2009a and extend the school bus exception rule from 20 to 25 years. Administrators appreciate your efforts to provide additional flexibility as we continue to confront the challenges of this unprecedented economic climate.

This bill would allow school districts and contractors to continue with their current replacement schedule or have the option to operate their buses for up to 25 years. SB 538 would allow districts to determine, on a case-by-case basis, the viability of retaining school buses in their fleet. Decisions to exercise this additional flexibility will vary from district to district based on mileage, road conditions and other factors.

Extending the life of school buses to 25 years is a cost-saving measure, which may help some school districts operate more efficiently and realize immediate savings. This extension may also serve to increase the resale value of buses for districts that choose to keep the current replacement schedule.

As you consider SB 538, please be assured that administrators will always weigh the safety and well-being of students when evaluating whether to extend the life of a school bus. In closing, I would like to reiterate that administrators appreciate your efforts to identify additional flexibility and cost-savings measures for school districts and thank you for your leadership.

*USA|Kansas represents more than 2,000 individual members and ten member associations:

Kansas Association of Elementary School Principals
Kansas Association of Middle School Administrators
Kansas Association of School Administrators
Kansas Association of School Business Officials
Kansas Association of School Personnel Administrators
Kansas Assoc for Supervision and Curriculum Development
Kansas Association of Special Education Administrators
Kansas Association of Secondary School Principals
Kansas Council of Career and Technical Education Administrators
Kansas School Public Relations Association