My grandfather was born in 1890 to a family of German immigrants. As a child he lost his mother and 3 of 4 siblings to Tuberculosis. His father left home to find work. At age 9 grandpa was an orphan with a 7-year-old brother in tow. They survived by moving from farm to farm, working for kind families who put them up in exchange for labor. He didn't get much schooling but somehow learned to read and write quite well - in both English and German. In his late twenties he was drafted to WWI in the 351 Infantry 88th Div where he fought in the trenches of France for 18 months. A mortar exploded nearby and he lost his hearing. He was on the front line in Alsace France at 11am on November 11th when the Armistice was signed. He returned home from war to find his rented barn was burned down. Time and again he lost all he had and started over with nothing. Lucky for me, he lived a long time and didn't pass until I was an adult. He told me several times to value my education. He said "Mark, what you know is the only thing you can never lose, and nobody can take away". It's been my motto ever since.
The Kansas Legislature has no greater responsibility, and no greater privilege than the education of young Kansans. If elected, I will work tirelessly to make sure the people of Kansas can be proud of their education. Next year the school funding formula will be rewritten. We must ensure it is fair to the rural districts.

