

February 14, 2022

Chairwoman Kristey Williams and Committee Members
Room 546-S, State Capital
Topeka, KS 66612

RE: HB2662 Parent Bill of Rights

Dear Representative Williams and Committee Members,

I am Karen Osborn, an elementary teacher in Frontenac, KS. I am writing in **opposition to HB2662** also referred to as the Parent Bill of Rights.

Several components of this bill cause me alarm. Most concerning to me is the mandate of posting all teaching materials online. This requirement appears to be an unfunded mandate that will cost teachers and districts a considerable amount of both time and money. Districts will need to add multiple pages to their websites (IT costs). Will the hours and hours of time needed to post all the materials used in the course of a school year just be added to the already full plates of the teachers in a district? Hiring additional staff to complete this monumental task will cost districts more money.

The first part of the bill lists various rights that parents should have. These rights would include access to curricular materials and information. Parents already have access to this information. They may seek this information out by contacting their child's teacher or the district administration.

This bill concerns me because of the restrictions it will likely put on teaching. Teaching is an art. The best teachers build relationships and know their students very well. They know when their classroom full of students needs another day to learn a certain skill. They recognize when they need to reteach a skill or topic. If materials and activities are to be posted online, there leaves no room for flexibility or spontaneity, reteaching, or change of pace. These happen almost daily in elementary classrooms! Teachers are education professionals and should be treated as such. This bill is a slap in the face to the many professional educators who have dedicated their lives to teaching children.

This bill will be an added stress to an already stressful profession. This bill will likely exacerbate the teacher shortage problems that many districts are already facing.

Again, I urge you to oppose HB2662 due to 1) it is an unfunded mandate that will take resources and add costs to already struggling districts, 2) parents already have access to their child's curriculum, 3) it takes away the flexibility teachers need on a daily basis, 4) it will likely increase the teacher shortage.

Sincerely,

Karen Osborn

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