

Holly Broxterman

From: Molly Adams <kravphotog@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 10:12 AM
To: Holly Broxterman
Subject: Testimonial against HB2662

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear representatives on the Committee on K-12 Education Budget:

I am writing to provide testimonial against House Bill 2662, as it will further undermine our public education system and provide more bureaucracy and administrative overhead, costing us tax-payer dollars.

Voucher systems like the one introduced in HB2662 are written to sound like empowerment, but essentially impact our families and our state in detrimental ways. Vouchers take scarce funding from students in public schools and give those resources to unaccountable private schools. They create more gaps between those who have more means, more education, and more time and information, and the working class families who already struggle to get kids to school.

Additionally, this bill would create more administrative paperwork in the form of "oversight," when we need to get back to basics. We need teachers working with our students, not logging everything they do online. Please do not waste any more tax payer dollars or time on advancing this bill.

Thank you,

Molly Adams, Lawrence parent

Holly Broxterman

From: Michael Allen <mike.allen.273@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 8:08 PM
To: Cyndie Rexer; Holly Broxterman; John Toplikar; Rob Olson
Subject: HB 2662, SB 363 and SB 393

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February 14, 2022
HB 2662
Opponent
Written-Only Testimony
Michael Allen, private citizen

As a citizen of this great state, I find this bill to be very much unnecessary. My local school district post lesson plans and calendars of all testing and school days. I can see everything my student is doing with a quick internet connection and a few minutes of reading. I find that this bill was written by someone who is trying to hide something. Or worse yet someone who should really be home schooling their child as they are hiding them from something. This can only damage an already weak economy here in Kansas with our schools already struggling to hire teachers and being so understaffed. I would take one look at this as a teacher and walk away and go somewhere else. With a weakened school system, the economy will never grow. This tied in with some of the anti-innovation bills I have seen come up we are shooting ourselves in the foot over some misguided far extreme ideals. This bill has nothing to do with parent's rights as they already have the right to ask everything that is in this bill. It is not about building better schools or recruiting better teachers. This piles 10 times more work on the whole system meaning 10 times less time to work with the students as teachers will be too busy talking to parents to teach. I fear this bill is just some over regulated stab as trying to keep schools from having kids wear a mask in doors and encouraging kids to get vaccinated. If this is where this is coming from, please stop wasting my tax dollars and get back to work.

Thank you for your time, and consideration

Michael Allen

Holly Broxterman

From: Natalie Aramburu <naramburu98@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 10:53 PM
To: Holly Broxterman; Cyndie Rexer
Subject: (HB 2662) and (SB 363 and SB 393)

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2/14/2022

(HB 2662) and (SB 363 and SB 393)

Opponent

-Written testimony

-Natalie Aramburu, a private citizen

3546 S. Walnut

Wichita, KS 67217

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in regards to the proposed legislative bills in both the house and senate HB 2662, SB 363, SB 393. As an educator with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and a Master's degree in Special Education I am writing to oppose all of the bills above. I have been teaching for 25 years, grades 3-8. I teach all subjects. I have watched education change over the years to a more scripted and stale presentation. We have pushed kids to start doing math and writing in kindergarten. Thus causing them to not work on social skills so we see more behaviors as they grow.

As an educator, in special education, we adjust daily, sometimes hourly, to meet our students' needs. If they don't understand the way we are explaining it (already told how to do that by district), then we have to come up with a different way to explain it. I tell my students that they assign me homework by letting me know they need it explained differently. That may include adjusting the curriculum. I have students in my class in middle school who cannot read basic site words due to his disability. If I were to have him read textbooks and complete assignments at his grade level he simply would not be able to do it or understand it. He would exhibit behaviors more than he already does due to his frustration and lack of learning.

There is no way we can write down and follow a plan for a school year in advance. There are so many variables that have to be taken into account. Some of those factors are the child, the child's home life, the child's basic needs such as food or medicine, the home atmosphere and the exposure to drugs, domestic violence, deaths, etc. Each of these factors impact what I will do each day in my classroom. I had a student come to school after going to bed at 5 am because the police raided her house in the middle of the night looking for her uncle who was hiding in the attic. She should have stayed home, but she came to school. There were many things that she needed so the curriculum wasn't followed as planned that day in order to meet her basic needs and do what was best for her.

Teachers pay \$40,000 or more to get our degrees. Then we are treated as if we aren't an expert in education. I do not know any other degree someone can go to school for 6 years to get and then have what you do and how you do it dictated to them. Many teachers are leaving the profession because we aren't babysitters nor are we just there to regurgitate information scripted for us.

The other most important factor is each district has a 'scope and sequence' for each subject being taught which list all of the curriculum and the projected dates/plans for when it will be taught. All parents have access to this information.

If you want to make laws on education the first thing you should do is talk to experts about the laws. Teachers are the experts. Please do not continue to leave us out of the conversations. It is disrespectful on many levels. I didn't pay that much (by the way I am still paying \$191.00 on my student loans a month) to not do what is best for kids. There is already enough being done that isn't what is best for kids, at least let us teach them the best way we can to guarantee they learn.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Natalie Aramburu

316-516-0934

Wichita, KS 67217

Naramburu98@gmail.com

Holly Broxterman

From: Erica Benson <ericawbenson@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 1:45 PM
To: Holly Broxterman
Cc: Cindy Holscher; Alex Benson
Subject: Written testimony: Vote no on HB 2662

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Education Committee members:

As a parent in the Shawnee Mission School District, I urge you to vote no on bill HB 2662. Teachers already make their lessons and materials readily available to parents and stakeholders. They create and share a syllabus at the beginning of the course, they follow state standards and Board of Education approved district curriculum and they post their lessons and materials online everyday. Educators are professionals and are trying to educate our children and create dynamic minds that can critically analyze many sources of data and information. Parents can engage with teachers on any given day and with their own students concerning what they are reading and learning in school.

These bills erode the community's trust and respect for teachers and create impossibly wasteful busy work for teachers and administrators. What is the state really going to do with all this information?

Students have access to more information than any other humans in history via the internet, TV and social media. Our state should be more concerned with the dangers of continued and worsening problems with misinformation, self-radicalization, phone/internet addiction and the future of "deep fakes" and conspiracy theories. That is where the dangerous information lies, not in schools with highly educated, licensed and vetted professionals deeply committed to children.

Please vote no on bill HB 2662,

Alex & Erica Benson
SMSD parents

Holly Broxterman

From: Cathlina Bergman <cathlina@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 9:06 PM
To: Holly Broxterman
Subject: Opposed to HB 2662

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February 14, 2022
HB 2662
Opponent
Written-Only Testimony
Cathlina Bergman--private citizen

Please vote against HB 2662. Even experienced educators such as myself cannot possibly post lesson plans for an entire school year months before ever meeting the students they will serve. In one week this February, we had three snow days, a special event that meant a change in the academic schedule (which we learned about less than a week in advance), and a morning in which the internet crashed for the entire school for three hours. Even though I write excellent lesson plans (all of which parents can easily access through Canvas, our learning management system), there was no way to anticipate the changes we'd have to make to our curriculum based on these interruptions.

Logistically speaking, HB 2662 is a nightmare, even if we thought it was actually a good idea and would actually increase transparency. Many teachers have multiple "preps." Will those teachers be given more time to post their lessons? Will the legislature provide funding to the districts to pay teachers to work through the month of June in order to prepare these lessons to post? What happens when a teacher resigns in July and the remaining teachers have new teaching assignments just two weeks before students arrive? (Happened to us this past summer)

Parents already have access to much more information than they've ever had in the past. Parents can watch REAL TIME updates to their students' lessons in my class and actually view the same videos their students are. If there's any additional information parents need, they only need to email me, and I'll happily pass along the information they seek.

Please don't run any more quality educators out of the state of Kansas. We can't keep going like this.

Holly Broxterman

From: abclady@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 10:26 AM
To: Holly Broxterman; Ethel Edwards
Subject: HB 2662

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Representative Broxterman, and Representatives Williams, Hoffman and Winn, and Members of the Committee,

Parents have so many ways they can contact their teachers, administrators, Superintendent, and board members, just as people have so many ways to contact you. Parents can find all content on their parent portals. Parents are continuously invited to all meetings pertaining to their student's academic success.

I am sure you know of the drop off of parent involvement in their students' schools and student academic programs. Our district (TPS) have taken every avenue to reach out to parents and to create a two way conversation. Please understand that this bill is not necessary to put upon school districts. Districts are doing everything they can to inform and involve parents in student success or concerns. Please vote no on HB 2662. Don't let it get to the floor. It is disrespectful to our professional educators across the state. It will just add to the crisis of teacher shortages which is becoming epidemic public education.

Please vote no on House Bill 2662.

Sue Bolley
1334 SW Plass Ave
Topeka, Kansas. 66604

Holly Broxterman

From: Allison Bradley <allisonbradley08@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 6:28 PM
To: Holly Broxterman
Subject: HB 2662

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February 14, 2022

-HB 2662

-Opponent

-Written-Only testimony

-Allison Bradley, private citizen

This is my tenth year teaching elementary students and my seventh year in public education. I oppose bill 2662 for two main reasons.

First, it would create a massive workload burden on teachers. Many teachers already work outside of their contracted hours to lesson plan, grade, and complete other activities for their students. It would take me multiple days, working all day, to accomplish the task of recording every resource I used this year. I could look back at my lesson plans to find resources I used, but I would not even remember every resource I used, as some were implemented as spur-of-the-moment decisions, responding to the needs of my students at the time. Many teachers are leaving the profession because they are feeling burned out. At a time when schools already have limited staff that continues to wane, this would only exacerbate the problem. When would teachers accomplish this task? How would they be compensated for the extra work? Funding is also limited in public education. If this bill passes and teachers are forced to complete this task without being given extra time, teachers would need to use their plan time--when they should be planning effective lessons for their students. Others might try to complete it during the school day, giving their students independent work, instead of giving them quality instruction. Neither option would benefit students.

Secondly, all of this work is unnecessary if transparency is the concern. I make class newsletters every other week that explain what we are learning in class. Parents know what curriculum we use, and they are free to ask me about any books being read. If they were to object to any resource I was using, I would gladly hear their concerns. When I was in middle school, my parents did not approve of me reading a particular book that was being read in my English class (due to religious beliefs). The teacher just assigned a different book for me to read. There is no reason why these adaptations could not be made if necessary. Teachers are used to making adaptations for students with different needs, whether they are educational or belief-based. Most teachers focus on teaching the Kansas state standards (available for everyone to see). Professional teachers remain politically neutral in the classroom, and they don't enforce their beliefs on their students. If any parents have a concern with what their child is reading or learning in class, or they have concerns about political bias, those issues can be addressed with the specific teacher or school.

My utmost concern is doing what is best for students, and I do not believe this bill would support teachers in doing so.

Holly Broxterman

From: Sabrina Bourbon <sbourbon12@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 9:39 AM
To: Holly Broxterman
Subject: HB 2662 Please read to the end

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Dear Ms. Broxterman,

As a parent of 6 children and a devoted public school teacher, I am writing you in strong opposition to HB 2662 "The Parent's Bill of Rights and Transparency Act". I am concerned that this bill will have negative effects on students for a number of reasons. First, teaching requires quick decisions and scaffolding/differentiation. Teachers are making choices in the best interests of our students. This bill removes the ability to differentiate and scaffold lessons that are meeting the best interests of our students and my children. The students and my children will suffer.

Second, this will put undue strain on public schools and teachers, causing many teachers to leave education altogether. It is already causing some of the 84 FHSU elementary education graduates to choose other sector jobs because the risk is too high if this bill passes. Our state is in an education crisis with a lack of teachers. We do not need to see a mass exit of educators leaving Kansas for other states. This will happen.

Finally, public school and local school boards already have systems in place to "vet" curriculum. I personally serve on this committee in my district and I guarantee the process is rigorous and thorough. Should an issue arise, they have steps in place to take proper action. More legislation in this area is simply not needed.

School districts, administrators, and teachers must focus on what students need, what their local communities need, and how to continue to move schools out of the pandemic. These decisions are best made at the local level. In the best interest of students and their learning, I am asking you to vote against HB 2662.

My testimony is just this. I am making the best choices for my students each day. I work long hours, well past my contract time to differentiate and plan for the ever-changing needs of my students. Just this week I have had to differentiate my lessons for readers that range from a kindergarten month 6 student to a 4th-grade level. Under this bill, I will not be able to do so if my lessons are to be posted months prior to the actual lessons. I will not know the skill level of my

incoming class when I am expected to plan for them. This is a great disservice to my students. What about when the Student Improvement Team or IEP team meets and decides to adjust the lessons for a child? I will not be allowed to make those changes without the threat of a fine that is 1/3 my salary. These changes that occur in SIT and IEPs are communicated to parents. They are not left in the dark.

As a reading specialist, I will not be able to adjust the instruction of students as they are tested and identified throughout the year as having deficits. This will take away my ability to meet the needs of students and explicitly teach them to bring about the success of my students. Please support teachers and the public school system! We give our all to our students and communities. I do not want to see Kansas teachers and graduates go out of state. We need them here.

We are not hiding anything unless you count the underlying stress and unnecessary pressure placed on educators by threatening legislation that only gives us more work that is NOT student-driven.

Finally, remember COVID? We are still struggling and working endlessly to support these students that have suffered due to the pandemic. Homeschooling and virtual education had great deficits statewide. These students were sent back to school behind their peers. Quarantines and school shutdowns had measurable negative impacts. Why not support a bill to fund social-emotional programs to support the struggles that our students are facing today. What may work in the Kansas City area or Topeka will not work in rural Kansas school districts. Remember the kids in those areas.

Respectfully,
Sabrina Bourbon, M.Ed.
2nd Grade Elementary Teacher
Reading Specialist
Parent of 6 children

Holly Broxterman

From: Molly Campbell <mollycampbell9@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2022 8:18 PM
To: Holly Broxterman
Cc: Cindy Holscher
Subject: Please oppose HB 2662

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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February 13, 2022

Dear Ms. Broxterman,

I am writing to voice my opposition to HB 2662. This bill creates a huge economic burden on schools, a burden on teachers, and goes against best practices for student achievement. I am an opponent of this bill and I am submitting my written testimony as a private citizen.

I have been a teacher for 9 years. I have taught children that are below grade level, on grade level, and above grade level. I have learned that building relationships and being able to be flexible in my teaching is the best thing I can do to help students. Being a good teacher means I know my students and I am adaptive to their needs. This bill should not be allowed to go forward to stop teachers from doing what is best for students. I won't know who will walk into my classroom each year and what they will need. I follow state standards and district curriculum, but each group of students have different needs. Some years I need to progress more quickly through a skill because the students understood the concepts. Some years I need to go more slowly (or go back and reteach a previous grade level skill) because students were not ready. I may need to find additional resources to help students understand or find more resources to enrich their learning. I cannot anticipate these needs before the school year starts. I would regularly reflect before teaching a subject on how to best adapt a lesson to a group of students. If all teaching materials must be shared the year before, then improving a lesson for a group of students has to stop.

The cost it would take to put this plan into place is unthinkable. If teachers are expected to upload all of their content that they use to teach, then teachers will need additional pay. We do not have time during our regular contracted time to do this. This also puts undue burden on all new teachers or teachers moving grade levels or content areas. They would need to have a complete year's worth of lessons (with all teaching materials created and found) during the summer. Even though a teacher may receive a paycheck in the summer, we are not paid for time during the summer.

I could write more, but I know your time is valuable. Please listen to the teachers that are reaching out to you. We are not the enemy and we are not trying to form some sinister plot to hide what is going on in our classrooms. We share newsletters, make phone calls, and send emails. We invite families to conferences. We take pictures of our classrooms and share what is going on with families. Work goes home with students so families can see what they are learning. What this bill requires of teachers is too much and not necessary.

I cannot tell you how many teachers I have talked to that are at a breaking point. We are tired of not being listened to and we are tired of not being treated as professionals.

Thank you,
Molly Campbell

Holly Broxterman

From: Kit Cole <kit.cole@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 10:36 AM
To: Holly Broxterman
Subject: No to HB2662

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Dear representatives on the Committee on K-12 Education Budget:

I am writing to provide testimonial against House Bill 2662, as it will further undermine our public education system and provide more bureaucracy and administrative overhead, costing us tax-payer dollars. Voucher systems like the one introduced in HB2662 are written to sound like empowerment, but essentially impact our families and our state in detrimental and classist ways. Vouchers take scarce funding from students in public schools and give those resources to unaccountable private schools. They create more gaps between those who have more means, more education, and more time and information, and the working class families who already struggle to get kids to school.

Additionally, this bill would create more administrative paperwork in the form of "oversight," when we need to get back to basics. We need teachers working with our students, not logging everything they do online. Please do not waste any more tax payer dollars or time on advancing this bill.

Sincerely,
Kit Cole

Holly Broxterman

From: Dan Coleman <danielfcoleman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 9:47 AM
To: Holly Broxterman; Stephanie Byers; Susan Estes; Jo Ella Hoye; Steve Huebert; Timothy Johnson; Brenda Landwehr; Jarrod Ousley; Patrick Penn; Sean Tarwater; Adam Thomas; Kristey Williams; Kyle Hoffman; Valdenia Winn
Subject: Please vote no on HB2662

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Dear State Representatives,

Thank you for your service to our state. I do appreciate what you do, especially in the past few years when being a public servant has been more challenging.

I'm a lifelong Kansan, currently living in Lawrence. I have two elementary school-aged kids.

I'm writing to ask that you please vote no on HB2662. Our public schools, and our public school students, need this aid more than private schools. On a very basic level, I don't believe my tax dollars are meant for private schools.

Thank you again for your time and efforts on behalf of Kansans.

Warm wishes,

Dan Coleman
Lawrence, KS

Holly Broxterman

From: Zeni Colorado <zeni.colorado@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 12:57 PM
To: Holly Broxterman
Subject: HB 2662 Parent's Bill of Rights

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Morning,
As a parent and former teacher, I do not support this bill.

As a parent, I trust the teachers to do their jobs. In order to be licensed, teachers are required to demonstrate their expertise in teaching and pedagogy and content knowledge by passing various licensing exams. They go through nationally accredited and state program reviewed rigorous education to earn the right to teach our children. I trust their expertise.

For each teacher education program, there are national accreditation bodies (such as the Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education) and state level program reviews that occur every 7 years. These processes review teacher education programs to ensure they are preparing quality teachers. Because of these processes, I trust our accredited teacher education programs to prepare our teachers. The faculty who teach these teacher candidates, have gone through years of post secondary education, most earning doctorates, to be able to prepare them to become teachers. I trust the education they received.

Teachers are the experts. My 5 year old is thriving in kindergarten despite the pandemic. I trust his teacher, the staff, and principals at his school to care for him and educate him. I appreciate all that they do. There is frequent communication, progress reports, and requests for parental engagement. I feel that I can ask the teacher/staff/principal questions whenever I have them.

HB 2662 undermines teacher expertise. It devalues the teaching profession. Education is the foundation of our society. Our teachers need to be appreciated and put on pedestals for all they do. It is hard work as it is. This bill would create a huge amount of work that is unmanageable. If this bill passes, you will see a mass exodus of teachers, and further the crisis of the teacher shortage. HB 2662 will send cracks through the foundation of our society, and have a ripple effect on our economy. This is the last thing our teachers and our society need.

Zeni Colorado-Resa

Holly Broxterman

From: Anna Cyr <comsmom@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 8:08 PM
To: Holly Broxterman
Subject: Please vote against HB 2662

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Members of the Education Committee:

As a parent and public school teacher, I am writing this in opposition to HB 2662 "The Parent's Bill of Rights and Transparency Act". I am concerned that this bill will have negative effects on students for a number of reasons.

First, as a special education teacher specifically working with students who are visually impaired for 23 years, I have to be ready to respond to the immediate needs of my students at a moment's notice. The lessons students learn best are those that happen in the teachable moments. Having to plan lessons a year or even a month in advance offers no opportunity to meet the students where they are at. This bill will not allow teachable moments to happen, and students will suffer for it.

Second, as a parent of students in 6th and 3rd grades, I trust my local school board, administrators and especially the classroom teachers who know my children to follow the curriculum already in place. They need the freedom to adjust weekly and daily plans to make sure that each of their classmates are provided instruction that meets their current and future needs. More legislation in this area is simply not needed.

School districts, administration, and teachers must focus on what students need and what their local communities need. These decisions are best made at a local level. In the best interest of students and their learning, I am asking you to vote against HB 2662.

Sincerely,
Anna M. Cyr
Buhler, KS

Holly Broxterman

From: Damewood, Lorene <damewood@ku.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 2:12 PM
To: Holly Broxterman
Cc: Cindy Holscher
Subject: HB 2662

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Rep. Broxterman:

I'm writing to say that the last thing we need at this time is a parent's bill of rights transparency act. Currently we have way too many uninformed/misinformed parents and others who think only of their rights without considering that they have responsibilities instead. They hear someone on TV mention a topic, and immediately, without knowing just what it is, demand that we stop doing or teaching it. We need more books that children of all ages can relate to as they question the world around them. Our children are growing up in a world different from that of their parents and grandparents. Instead of challenging the materials used in schools, parents should probably read them and see if they can understand what is being taught. We have a dearth of critical thinking ability in our society today because too many people have never been taught to think for themselves; we only parrot what a "talking head" has said.

Please vote against this bill.

Sincerely,
Lorene Damewood
11940 W 66th St
Shawnee, KS 66216

Holly Broxterman

From: Dorothy Davidson <momdavidson44@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 3:10 PM
To: Holly Broxterman
Subject: Fwd: HB 2662

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

As a retired schoolteacher, a mother and a grandmother of multiple teachers and school administrators, I am writing this email in opposition to HB 2662 entitled, "The Parent's Bill of Rights and Transparency Act." I am strongly opposed to this bill and concerned that it will have lasting negative effects on our students, our teachers, and our school administrators.

First, teaching requires quick decisions and making choices in the best interests of the students entrusted to them each and every day. These are called "teachable moments." This bill will not allow these moments to happen.

Second, this will put undue strain on public schools and staff, causing many teachers to leave the educational system altogether. It will also keep many prospective teachers away from this career.

Finally, public schools and local school boards already have systems in place to "vet" curriculum. Should any issue arise, they have steps in place to take proper action. More legislation in this area is not needed or welcomed.

School districts, administrators', and teachers need to focus on what each individual student needs, as the needs arise. As well as on what their community needs, and how to continue to move schools and children through the pandemic in safe and healthy ways. These decisions are best made at the local level. In the interest of all students, their education, and their well-being, I am asking you to please vote against HB 2662.

Sincerely,

Dorothy L. Davidson

McPherson, KS

(Teacher of the Year in USD #365 in 2001)

*You may use this message as opposition testimony, in written form only, as I am unable to attend this hearing.
Thank you.

Holly Broxterman

From: Josh Donaldson <jdonaldson1990@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 9:56 AM
To: Holly Broxterman
Subject: Please Oppose HB2662

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Representative Williams and Committee Members,

My name is Joshua Donaldson, and I am a concerned citizen who lives in Emporia, KS. **I am writing in opposition to HB2662.**

Several components of this bill cause me alarm. First of all, this bill addresses the “need” for transparency between the educational system and the community at large. This “transparency” includes things such as access to curricular materials and access to meetings. In actuality, parents already have access to most of these items. All they have to do is seek them out by engaging with their child’s teachers or the district. Any district official or teacher not willing to share this information should be dealt with, but passing a blanket policy is not the right approach.

Another concerning component 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), and I can only imagine the hours and hours of time needed to post all the materials used in the course of a school year.

What is most disturbing to me is the restrictions this will likely put on the act of teaching. There is an art and a science to teaching. The science is often thought of as the skills that teachers employ during the course of the day to get the material delivered to the students. The art, though, is the nuance of connecting with students. These connections include not only when a student is and is not understanding the material, but also connecting with them on a human level. The job of the educator is to help create more empathetic and well-rounded people *for the community at large*. This includes talking about difficult subject matter such as the history of racism in our country and the oppression of LGBTQIA+ people, but it also includes creating lessons that allows the students to see history, ideas, events, etc. from a perspective different from their own. This bill threatens the professional autonomy of educators, and it will help allow the silencing of diverse voices, furthering strengthening the systems of oppression that our country has been fighting so hard to dismantle.

I urge you to oppose HB2662 on the grounds that:

1. Parents already have access to most, if not all, of the rights as outlined in this bill
2. This is an unfunded mandate that will take needed resources from schools
3. These requirements will hobble the flexibility, spontaneity, and artistic nature of teaching.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joshua Donaldson
1524 Center St, Emporia, KS, 66801
jdonaldson1990@gmail.com

Holly Broxterman

From: Rebecca Zarazan Dunn <rebecca.z.dunn@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 9:23 AM
To: Holly Broxterman
Subject: Testimony Regarding House Bill 2662

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Good morning K-12 Budget Committee representatives,

During a time when educational disparity has been brought center stage during these pandemic years, I ask you to vote against House Bill 2662 for the sake of our public school educators and the students they serve.

Our public schools need financial support now more than ever and to introduce a voucher system would cripple these public institutions that provide academic support to some of our most marginalized communities in favor of private institutions. We urgently need to prioritize funding around these institutions for the health and betterment of our state's education in our current budget climate.

I come from a family of public educators who work tirelessly with little pay in order to provide exceptional education to the youth in their respective communities. Especially these past couple years, they've not once worked a regular 40-hour work week, averaging 60-hours a week. There is a mass exodus of teachers leaving the profession. To require additional, unnecessary commitments to their plate would further push this trend.

Thank you for your support.

In gratitude,
Rebecca Zarazan Dunn
Lawrence, Kansas
rebecca.z.dunn@gmail.com

Holly Broxterman

From: Ethel Edwards <etheledwards766@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 8:13 AM
To: Holly Broxterman
Subject: HB 2662 Written Testimony

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February 15, 2022

Chair Williams, Representatives Hoffman and Winn, and Members of the Committee

House Bill 2662 should not be voted out of committee. "Establishing the parents' bill of rights and academic transparency act" is redundant. School board policies address parents' rights. Existing in current school board policies are multiple ways parents can address concerns regarding discrimination, bullying, curriculum, policy, instructional materials, and personnel to name some of them.

School boards expect their parents and their community to hold them accountable. Therefore, this bill is unnecessary because decisions regarding our local schools should be made at the local level.

Again, House Bill 2662 should not be voted out of committee.

Ethel A. Edwards
3634 SW Spring Creek Ct
Topeka, KS 66614

Holly Broxterman

From: Jonathan Eshnaur <ksteachermre@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2022 12:32 PM
To: Holly Broxterman
Subject: Written Testimony in Opposition to HB 2662

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Holly, Please find my testimony in opposition to HB 2662. Please let me know if there was something I missed.

Thanks,
Jonathan Eshnaur

K-12 Budget Committee Members,

Thank you for your service to our democracy with your work in the Kansas Legislature. Our citizen legislature works best when it takes time to listen to all members of Kansas to move our state forward into growth for future generations. I am very concerned as a Kanas Educator about the slate of Transparency Bills and write in Opposition to HB 2662 that has been introduced. While appearing on the surface to be well-meaning, these bills will negatively impact our students. I've been privileged enough to watch years of school board meetings in which a new curriculum is brought and approved by members of that specific community that know their students best in the local community.

As a special education teacher, I have to meet the individual needs of my students. This requires flexibility to meet the needs of students within the approved curriculum by the school board and not always from a set resource that may not meet the needs of all students. The instruction of my students carries widely from needing support on how to develop a homework plan how to manage classroom expectations to learning to read or do math skills. These lessons are not copied and pasted lessons that are repeated every year. These lessons must also be appropriate for the individual needs of each student which can range widely within my caseload.

The research of what students need to attend our neighborhood schools is critical thinking skills that require educators to allow students to learn while asking questions and receive honest answers through research and classroom discussions that are appropriate to age level. Parents and educators have always worked together in a school to address concerns about material selection concerns and we should strive to continue that process.

Please let educators do our job, educate our students to become critical thinkers, and allow educators to meet those needs.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Eshnaur
High School Special Education Teacher in Kansas
2647 S. 28th St.
Kansas City, KS 66106

Holly Broxterman

From: Pat Erington <eringtonpad@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 8:54 AM
To: Holly Broxterman
Subject: RE: HB 2662

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I oppose this measure. If parents can decide all things about education without any teacher education themselves....nothing will be taught. Schools are to provide basic science, math, reading, and writing along with helping students learn to think and discuss. Parents are already able to learn about what is taught in schools. This bill just creates a "snitch" on the teacher if you don't like them situation.

Pat Erington
eringtonpad@gmail.com

Holly Broxterman

From: Carolyn Evers <carmoo123@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 9:58 AM
To: Holly Broxterman
Subject: HB 2662 Please, NO

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to provide testimonial against House Bill 2662, as it will further undermine our public education system and provide more bureaucracy and administrative overhead, costing us tax-payer dollars.

I have 40 years experience as an educator in Title 1 public schools , as well as having raised children who attended Lawrence Public Schools. It is difficult for me to imagine the hardship that would be placed on many of the families, the likes of which I served during my teaching career.

Voucher systems like the one introduced in HB2662 are written to sound like empowerment, but essentially **impact** our families and our state in **detrimental** ways. Vouchers take scarce funding from students in public schools and give those resources to **unaccountable** private schools. They **create more gaps** between those who have more means, more education, and more time and information, and the working class families who already struggle to get kids to school.

Additionally, this bill would create more administrative paperwork in the form of "oversight," when we need to get back to basics. We need teachers in classrooms working with our students, not logging everything they do online. Please do not waste any more tax payer dollars or time on advancing this bill.

Carolyn Evers

522 Oklahoma St

Lawrence, KS 66046

785-331-7376

From iCarmoo