

Holly Broxterman

From: Christy Goentzel <chrisgoe@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2022 5:59 PM
To: Kristey Williams; Kyle Hoffman; Valdenia Winn; Stephanie Byers; Susan Estes; Jo Ella Hoyer; Steve Huebert; Timothy Johnson; Brenda Landwehr; Jarrod Ousley; Patrick Penn; Sean Tarwater; Adam Thomas; Holly Broxterman; Leo Delperdang; Gene Suellentrop
Subject: HB 2662

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Members of the Education Committee:

As an educator in the Wichita Public Schools, USD 259, 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 and teachers for a number of reasons.

First, teaching requires continuous decision making on-the-fly based on student progress during instruction. As a result, teachers are making choices in the moment that are in the best interests of their students. These decisions allow us to meet the needs of each individual student in order to help them progress. This bill will not allow those moments to happen, and students will suffer for it. Second, this will put undue strain on public schools and teachers, causing many teachers to leave education altogether. A big concern considering we already have a shortage of teachers across the state/country. It will also scare many prospective teachers out of college teaching prep programs. Lastly, public school and local school boards already have systems and professionals in place to "vet" curriculum. Should an issue arise, they have steps in place to take proper action. More legislation in this area is simply not needed.

School districts, administration, and teachers must focus on what students need, what their local communities need and how to continue to move schools forward. These decisions are best made at the local level where districts and school boards know their community and their students best. In the best interest of Kansas students and their learning, I am asking you to vote against HB 2662.

Sincerely,

Christy Goentzel
2021 N Parkdale Ct.
Wichita, KS 67212

Holly Broxterman

From: Carla Goertzen <cgoertzen313@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2022 11:06 PM
To: Holly Broxterman
Subject: HB 2662

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hello,
My name is Carla Goertzen. I teach 4th grade for Buhler USD 313, in Buhler, KS. I have been a teacher for 23 years. I have my Bachelor's Degree in education, as well as a Masters Degree in Curriculum and Instruction. I was a finalist for KTOY in 2012, and spent a portion of that year touring school districts, speaking to colleges and organizations, and providing feedback for the KS Board of Education, Kansas House of Representatives, and Kansas Senate. Additionally, I am a mother whose child recently graduated from my local public school district.

I am writing to you in regard to the upcoming hearing for HB 2662. I feel as though the qualifications I listed above give me some experience-based insight into the topics being addressed by the proposed legislation. I don't know of anyone who could dispute that "quality education is central to a child's development and long-term success in life and that a parent has a right to direct the upbringing, education and care of the parent's child" or "that a parent shall have the right to play a central role in a child's education" (section 1 (b), HB 2662). In my roles as both an educator and a mother, I certainly support both of those concepts. Those concepts are the reason why teachers share our class expectations and an overview of the year's academic standards with families at the beginning of the year, why we provide easily accessible avenues for access/contact to parents, and offer parent/teacher conferences. Our school districts offer opt-out policies for experiences in which parents might rather not have their children participate. Most of the items listed in this bill are actually things parents already have access to via the KSDE website, or information which would be provided by school districts, at any time, by request.

In my experience, educators WANT parents to play an active role in their child's education. We welcome partnerships with student families, because we know doing so provides the best possible opportunities for student success. We welcome parent inquiries, involvement, and investment.

However, HB 2662 puts an unreasonable burden on already overextended and overwhelmed Kansas teachers. I have walked into my classroom every day for twenty-three years with a mental plan for the day. I have my Kansas 4th grade curriculum standards memorized and easily accessible in my classroom. Each day, I have the standards that are addressed by the day's work posted on the board so that my students also know what educational goal we are working towards (as does every teacher in my district). Like most teachers, I share an overview of each week's learning experiences with families, and share daily photos of what we are doing. I have a plan for instruction based on the educational materials provided to me by my district. That information is easily shared with parents and the community.

However, 4th graders are not robots. Things do not always proceed according to well-laid plans. There are days when we have to stop our scheduled learning explorations to investigate spontaneous questions generated from our lessons and from their curious little minds. Last week, my class took spontaneous side paths into investigating the price of creating solar panels, googling the best shape for tornado-resistant homes, whether Crayola markers and Flair pens have the same components inside, and why going for a walk often makes you feel better when you are cranky. All of these things were real-world opportunities for teaching and relationship-building. These things were opportunities for us to learn about new things, to build connections with others, to hear about other people's perspectives and experiences, and to think about how we might impact the world around us.

While I am absolutely cognizant of the importance of transparency in my profession, and 100% willing to share information about the curriculum resources we use and the standards towards which we strive, I definitely DO NOT have the time in my professional life to document every single resource that we use for those explorations. I am aware that much of the public outcry against HB 2662 stems from the belief that educators would have to submit their lesson plans in advance. It is my understanding after reading the proposed legislation, that the information would actually be submitted about the "learning materials and activities used for student instruction in the preceding school year" (Section 1 (A) HB 2662). So I understand that the expectation is not that I anticipate every resource and activity which an as-yet unmet class might require, but rather that I document every resource and activity used throughout every day. It seems staggering to consider the time commitment to log every single assignment, quiz, video, or resource that I choose to use on the fly because it's what my students need as a supplement in that moment, in addition to our regular curriculum. Those things cannot be anticipated in advance, but only implemented in the moment of need, and therefore would require daily documentation, and that is not a feasible plan in reality.

As a registered Kansas voter, a Kansas educator, and a Kansas parent, I respectfully request that you not advance this bill out of committee.

Holly Broxterman

From: Sabrina Gregersen <sabrinagregersen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 9:54 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: vote NO on House Bill 2662

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Hello,

I am against the House Bill 2662 (HB2662) title the "parents' bill of rights and academic transparency act. Private education can pick and choose who is allowed to participate, it will erode education for ALL. Please fund public education, a system that supports ALL individuals. Furthermore, public education is vital to communities and neighborhoods. SUPPORT PUBLIC EDUCATION!

2nd. Kansas is a rural state, there are NO private schools in rural KS. You will be hurting a large portion of the state by implementing HB2662. I grew up in rural KS, we need a bill that will increase funding to public education because rural schools are struggling already, this bill will further erode educational opportunities particularly in rural communities and for low income families.

Sabrina Gregersen

Holly Broxterman

From: Alison Hagman <alisonhagman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2022 9:30 PM
To: Kristey Williams; Kyle Hoffman; Valdenia Winn; Stephanie Byers; Susan Estes; Jo Ella Hoyer; Steve Huebert; Timothy Johnson; Brenda Landwehr; Jarrod Ousley; Patrick Penn; Sean Tarwater; Adam Thomas; Holly Broxterman
Subject: Opposition to HB2662, SB363 and SB393

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.

Hello,

As a Kansas resident, parent, and constituent, I am writing to ask you to oppose HB2662, SB363 and SB393. I oppose these bills for the following reasons:

1. Planning a year in advance is NOT good teaching. Teachers are HIGHLY trained individuals (most with a Master's degree and hundreds of hours of professional development) who are able to pivot MID-LESSON if necessary to best meet the needs of students. Planning a year in advance is rigid, it doesn't take individual needs into account. I want my children's teachers to build their lesson plans to their students, not to parents.
2. Transparency isn't the real issue. Curriculum for most grades and subjects can already be found online at the Kansas Dept of Ed website. In addition, almost all school districts have a learning management system (Canvas, Blackboard, Google Classroom, etc.) where parents can join the class and see everything teachers are using and assigning. There are many ways parents can be involved in their child's school. Critical Race Theory has been a hot button topic but teaching with an eye to diversity and inclusion is not the same as CRT. Please don't confuse the two.
3. If we move public school funding into the private sector, we are going to raise a society that is only inclusive of people that look and behave as they do. That should be terrifying to us as a community.
4. We are already having historic turnover in the teaching profession, as well as teacher shortages. Putting more restrictions, supervision, and showing a lack of trust in our educators will only make the problem worse.

Please oppose these dangerous bills, I beg you as a parent and as a Kansan.

Sincerely,
Alison Stephen
17158 Feather Ln
Tonganoxie, KS 66086

Holly Broxterman

From: Katelyn Hobby <katelyn.tebben@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 1:38 PM
To: Holly Broxterman
Subject: Opponent Testimony for HB2662

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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.

Hello, the below statement is opponent testimony (written only) for HB2662 for the hearing on Wednesday. My name is Katelyn Hobby and I am from Berryton, KS (Topeka area).

"I am writing as a concerned Kansan, taxpayer, parent, and educator regarding HB 2662 (and any further related bills). I plead for your opposition with regards to this bill requiring schools to post lists of materials and methods a year in advance of teaching them.

First and foremost, parents of students already have access to state standards, thus providing information on what content is taught. Parents also already have access to all materials and assignments given to students that are posted online via Canvas, Google Classroom or the like. Every school to my knowledge uses a similar service providing current students and parents access 24/7. Additionally, it is the product of a productive and trusting society when parents and schools communicate so openly that if a parent wants to know what is taught, they should just speak directly to the teacher or school. I don't know that bullying schools into posting this information publicly is the answer to building the types of trusting communities that we strive for.

Along with this, the issue of confidentiality is of due concern. For instance, in public schools, there are students on IEP's. These students often require various degrees of modifications of materials, alternate materials, and instructional methods. These accommodations and modifications are confidential by law. Requiring the posting of all instructional materials will violate this. It is not the right of the public to be able to just access how I provide accommodations and modifications to my students- again, information that is confidential.

Furthermore, I understand that proponents of this bill are advocates of transparency. I am an advocate of transparency as well, however, forcing this information to be posted publicly essentially a year in advance entices and supports bad teaching practices. Do I have curriculum maps outlining the topics of units for my entire year? Yes. But do I have daily lesson plans and assignments that far in advance? Absolutely not. Good teaching requires knowing your students, assessing their needs, and designing lessons/materials based on those needs. How can a teacher post lesson plans for students they don't even know? They can't. Most teachers can only lesson plan specific lessons up to a couple

days or so before they are taught due to the ever changing needs of students. Personally, I've had to scrap entire lessons within the same day I was supposed to teach them because for whatever reason, my kids that year weren't getting it- therefore I had to use my professional training, years of experience, and knowledge of my students to make last minute changes. Teachers need the freedom to be able to do this. It's what is best for students.

Additionally, in order to make learning relevant, especially in the subject that I teach, current events are a fundamental tool. I create standards based lessons for students centered around current events thus allowing students to make connections to events from the past. This makes learning RELEVANT, APPLICABLE TO LIFE, and REAL. Creating the conditions for authentic learning and connections is vital for good teaching. This bill does not allow for that.

This bill also stifles the education of teachers. Teachers are learners for life. We research best practices, keep up to date with educational studies, attend professional learning conferences, and continue our education to further our degrees and stay licensed. Because teachers are constantly learning, we are always improving in our profession. This bill would keep teachers from being able to try new techniques, change lessons as needed, or implement any learning at all. This is also detrimental to student teachers. Student teachers who are new to the profession must spend time creating their own lessons and teaching in a school in order to earn their degree- it is completely impossible to require lessons to be posted a year in advance if they are being created by a student teacher. Mentor teachers themselves couldn't do it as we often don't know when we'll have student teachers in the first place.

Copyright laws will also be broken regardless of whether or not the language in the bill says, "this should not be construed as requiring a school to violate copyright" yet that is EXACTLY what this would do if teachers were forced to publish their materials online for public access. What happens when schools get cease and desist letters and/or fined? Who pays for that? (rhetorical because I know that you won't require the state to do that and it will become yet ANOTHER burden on our constitutionally underfunded schools).

By forcing this penalty and this bill upon teachers by moving it forward, you will be stripping teachers of the creativity, freedom, and autonomy needed to make professional decisions for our students based on the learning needs of their students. Teachers are professionals who spend years perfecting their craft- in the same way that doctors "practice", teachers also continually work to make the best possible decisions for students year after year. I ask that you please trust that."

Sincerely,

Katelyn

Holly Broxterman

From: Katie Hoke <katie.hoke@hoke-ley.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 10:10 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: Testimonial AGAINST House Bill 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.

Hello,

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 grew up in Andover Kansas and attended public school K-12. After graduation, I attended Kansas State University earning my degree in Interior Architecture and moved to the west coast to practice as a professional. In 2016 my family decided to move back to Kansas to start our firm, Hoke Ley, raise our children close to grandparents and to experience the quality of a midwest upbringing. Our children, currently 7 and 12, also attend our local public schools in Lawrence. High quality, well funded, public education was key to my success and is also the key to creating the next generation of professionals, trade partners, and business owners. All of our students in this state deserve the same opportunities I had as a child. Public education is the backbone of our communities, of our businesses, and our economy.

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.

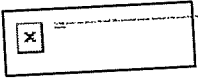
As an elected official it is your responsibility to represent ALL students and families in our state and ensure a high quality public education.

Sincerely,

Katie Hoke

Katie Hoke
NCIDQ

Principal
832 Pennsylvania St
Lawrence, KS 66044
Main (816) 446-0456
Direct (206) 384-3168
www.hoke-ley.com



Holly Broxterman

From: Anna Sofia Palos Jackson <asjackson415@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 9:35 PM
To: Holly Broxterman
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.

To the House Committee on K-12 Education Budget,

My name is Anna Jackson. I have taught World Languages at the middle school level for 15 years. I am writing to express my concerns with HB2662.

It is an impossible and ludicrous requirement for teachers to plan and post lessons and resources a year in advance and as a person interested in education, you should not want them to. Teachers walk into classrooms and adapt and modify lessons at the drop of a hat based on student interest, engagement and need. If I am teaching something that students find interesting, I go home and look for more to share on that topic. If I am teaching something that my students find challenging, I go out and look for supplemental resources to help them to understand better. If something interesting or relevant occurs in the news, I want to be able to bring that into my classroom. This is the only way we can reach kids in this fast paced, ever changing world we live in. It is impossible to know what will inspire my students or what struggles they have had until I have met them and we have started the process of learning.

Transparency is really not an issue. Lessons and resources are posted in online learning platforms all over the state. If parents have concerns, they can reach a teacher instantly to ask questions and most of the time, parents are welcome to opt students out of lessons they deem inappropriate.

Education as a profession has lost its appeal for young people looking for new careers and pathways. For example, the KU school of education currently has 4 students who will graduate with a degree in language education. Of those only 1 is actually planning to look for a job in the field. Bills such as this only make the profession look less appealing. We need good and fresh teachers. By introducing such strict rules that are nearly impossible to abide by, we run the risk of having teachers at all to fill our classrooms. There is a national teacher shortage for many reasons. Underpaid and overworked are two of the biggest reasons. Disrespected can now be added to the list.

Please spend some time with some real teachers and ask them what this would look like for them. Think about the analogy of a doctor and a patient. It would be impossible to make a plan for a patient that a doctor had not even met yet. I have 140 students. It would be sad and wrong to assume that I will know what they will need in July.

Sincerely,
Anna S. Palos Jackson

Holly Broxterman

From: suzannah johannes <suziejohannes@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 11:17 AM
To: Holly Broxterman
Subject: Fwd: 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 Holly, I would like to amend my testimonial to the following:

--

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.

I am a proud Kansan, and a product of my Kansas public education. I grew up on a farm in Northeastern, Kansas. My public education has provided me, in very real terms, a genuine transformative ability to succeed in my career and provide for my family.

Bills like HB2662 are written to sound like empowerment, but essentially impact our families and our states in detrimental ways. 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.

Sincerely,
Suzie Johannes
suziejohannes@gmail.com

Holly Broxterman

From: Jana Kahle <janadkahle@me.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2022 7:29 PM
To: Kristey Williams; Kyle Hoffman; Valdenia Winn; Stephanie Byers; Susan Estes; Jo Ella Hoye; Steve Huebert; Timothy Johnson; Brenda Landwehr; Jarrod Ousley; Patrick Penn; Sean Tarwater; Adam Thomas
Cc: Holly Broxterman
Subject: opposition to HB 2662/SB 393

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Members of the Education Committee:

As a parent in USD 106, Western Plains, I am writing this in opposition to HB 2662 "The Parent's Bill of Rights and Transparency Act".

I was always closely involved at every step of my daughter, Linda Tillitson's education. There were many more parent's that were never involved in their child's education. The schools as well as each instructor was always very open to any information we wanted. The schools are as open as you want them to be!

REMEMBER IT ALL IS A TWO WAY STREET!

I am concerned that this bill will have negative effects on students for a number of reasons. First, teaching requires quick decisions. Teachers are making choices in the best interests of their students each day in these teachable moments. This bill will not allow those moments to happen, and students will suffer for it. Second, this will put undue strain on public schools and teachers, causing many teachers to leave education altogether. It will also scare many prospective teachers out of college teaching prep programs. Finally, public school and local school boards already have systems in place to "vet" curriculum. 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 a local level. In the best interest of students and their learning, I am asking you to vote against HB 2662.

Sincerely,

Jana D Kahle

22072 EE Rd

Ransom, KS 67572

Holly Broxterman

From: katie k. <katiekwinter@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 11:44 AM
To: Holly Broxterman
Subject: Testimony re: HB2662

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Hello Committee Members,

I'm (incredibly) concerned about introducing vouchers to the state of Kansas. I've always been proud that we did not have that system in our state - one that valued local control and public schools. Vouchers would take money away from our schools, putting even more stress on them than they currently are. It would leave behind kids that are already left behind. Choice, in this case, is not a democratic choice but a choice of privilege. I worry it would create even more division.

I am also concerned that we are making these HUGE decisions in a pandemic, where the education system has been asked to do more than perhaps any other outside of healthcare. What we are asking of our teachers is superhuman - and they are rising to the challenge! But sadly, many are leaving as it is untenable to create an atmosphere where professionals are asked to do so much for so little compensation and respect. I am worried that more "accountability" measures will only add to the idea that these public servants are not to be trusted.

I wonder who profits from vouchers? I am weary of the answer. I'm not sure it is the kids. and I'm not sure it is society. I don't think it is our state's public education system that you all are stewards of. I am asking to vote against this bill - and we can come up with some innovative and creative solutions! They are out there! There is hope!

I'm happy to help and thanks for listening,
katie klein.

Holly Broxterman

From: Chelle Leininger <chelle.leininger@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 12:02 PM
To: Holly Broxterman
Subject: HB2662 - Please forward to addressees

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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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 Chelle Leininger. I have taught in Kansas schools for 17 years. I am also a college professor who works to prepare pre-service teachers to work in elementary education positions throughout our state. I work in Haviland, Kansas, and I reside in Hugoton, Kansas. I am writing in opposition to HB2662 also referred to as the Parent Bill of Rights.

As a conservative myself, I am supportive of the rights of parents to be involved in their children's educations and to understand and support the content and frameworks of the curriculum taught in their children's schools. I do not believe we need HB2662 or any other type of bill, however, to grant parents that right. Parents in our schools already have access to all the items mentioned in the bill. All they have to do is engage with their child's teachers or the district, or even ask their own children to look at the papers that come home in their backpack. Many districts also use apps such as SeeSaw which allows parents to see the work the child is doing throughout the day. Passing a blanket policy such as HB2662 is not the answer to the problem of parents being too busy to look at an app or contact their child's teacher.

I have numerous other concerns with the bill, but one of the greatest is the restriction the act will likely put on the act of teaching. We have spent the past several years training teachers to differentiate their curriculum, to adapt their teaching to the needs of the children in the classroom in that particular semester or month or week. How will teachers appropriately differentiate their curriculum if they are required to adhere to the content they posted on the transparency site? This posting itself is also problematic as this appears to be an unfunded mandate which will cost teachers and districts a considerable amount of both time and money at a time when teachers are already resigning in droves and school districts are struggling to find replacements.

Due to the above concerns and many others you are undoubtedly hearing from constituents, I request that you oppose HB2662.

Sincerely,

Celle Leining
1226 Road 16
Hugoton KS 67951
chelle@pld.com

Holly Broxterman

From: Jade Martens <jadebmartens@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 10:57 AM
To: Holly Broxterman
Subject: Testimonial 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.

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

I am writing to ask you to consider the impact of HB 2662, or the parents bill of rights, on teachers. Parents are a valuable resource for educators, and should be treated as such. Parents already have a wealth of education resources available at all times through their district websites and KSDE. Kansas, like the rest of the nation, is facing a critical teacher shortage. Any additional burden placed on teachers is only going to further drive people out of the profession. While parents have every right to ask about the curriculum being taught to their children, it is unfair to ask teachers to post everything they could potentially say to a child on the Internet. Teaching requires individualization for each student. No other profession is asked to make a complete plan for their entire year and publish it to a broad audience.

Support for public education is the ultimate investment in students, their families and our state. It is a proven engine of growth and opportunity. Teachers are at the heart of education and should be treated with professionalism.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues.
Sincerely,

Jade Martens
Kansas Resident

Sent from my iPhone

Holly Broxterman

From: Julie Meyer <jmeyer0221@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 10:42 AM
To: Holly Broxterman
Subject: Testimonial against H 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 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. Which will cost us neighborhood schools which create strong communities. Kansas needs stronger communities. We need to better educate children within the public schools not make education harder on working Kansan. Our schools on the education level are underfunded as it is.

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.

Sincerely,
Julie Meyer

Holly Broxterman

From: Nicole Michael <NicoleMichael@usd281.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 1:44 PM
To: Cyndie Rexer; Holly Broxterman
Subject: Oppose SB 393, Oppose SB 363 , Oppose 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.

Hello,

I am Nicole Michael, and this is my 13th year teaching. I oppose SB 393, I oppose SB 363 , and I oppose HB 2662. I pride myself in understanding students' needs and being able to adapt my lessons to be the most effective for all students. These bills would make it impossible to make adjustments as needed throughout the year. We cannot be expected to anticipate the needs of our students before we've even met them! Furthermore, I pull resources from many different sources. I would have lists of hundreds of links to different websites which may change and not even work over the course of a year. This creates unneeded stress and time that teachers simply do not have. We are already teaching in person, online, and hybrid because of Covid. This would literally send teachers into retirement that we cannot afford to lose. Our district already struggles to find high quality teachers when we have openings. Please vote NO to these bills.

Nicole Michael, MS

Holly Broxterman

From: Catharine Morris <catharine.morris@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2022 9:52 AM
To: Holly Broxterman; Francis Averkamp; Valdenia Winn
Cc: Tom Sawyer; Stephanie Clayton; Jason Probst
Subject: Testimony opposing HB2662

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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February 13, 2022

Chair Rep. Rep. Kristey Williams, Vice Chair Rep. Kyle Hoffman, Ranking Minority Member Rep. Valdenia Winn, and Members of the House Committee on K-12 Education Budget

My name is Katie Morris and I have been a Kansas public school teacher for 12.5 years. I am very concerned about and ask you to oppose HB2662. Either the bill sponsors do not know how much they are asking with this legislation or they know exactly how much they are asking and are purposefully trying to drive more educators away from the field, at a time when we are already facing shortages. Additionally, I feel it is overreach that would allow a small group of parents to control not just their own, but other's children's education.

This sections of the bill addressing "transparency" are both impractical and unnecessary. Why is it impractical? I teach Kindergarten-12th grade art which means that in any given school year I prepare and plan units and lessons for 12 different curriculums: one for each grade K-8, and three different high school courses. I see 7 different classes a day and 11 different classes in a week. My lesson plans change year to year and sometimes within sections of the same class because I adapt to meet the needs of my students. I want to be able to continue to do what is best for my students without the fear I will forget to share a resource and bring financial punishment on my school district. I'm not sure this is common knowledge outside the teaching profession so I will tell you: it is already impossible or nearly so for teachers to get their work done during 45 minutes of plan time. In the last two school years teachers have even been asked to give up that plan time to cover other teachers' classes when substitutes can not be found! We are not paid for coming in to get work done before school or working after. Any work I do outside my 7:50-3:30 duty day is unpaid labor. This extra reporting would increase the burden on a population that is already overworked. Teachers across the state of Kansas and across the nation are feeling burnt out like never before and we do not need one more hoop to jump through.

Requiring teachers to report every material and activity is unnecessary, and frankly, it is insulting. I am an effective and highly qualified educator. I have been trained not just in knowledge of my content but in child development, serving students with diverse needs, and different pedagogical approaches. I continue to develop professionally and to serve my profession by sharing knowledge and resources with other educators and serving in leadership and mentorship positions. I also want to note that I am not unique in this regard. I work with a school full of capable educators and I trust them with my children.

This bill shows the sponsors' distrust of professional educators' abilities to do the jobs for which we were hired under the guise of "accountability". Parents have as much access to information about what their children are being taught as they desire. Many teachers, myself included, use social media to share what is happening in our classrooms because we are proud of the work we are doing with students and want parents to be part of that process. School districts often use platforms that allow parents to see assignments shared digitally with students, parents have access to assignments in gradebooks, and of course can speak with a teacher if they have questions about what is being taught. We do not need a piece of legislation for parents to know what is happening in their child's school and we do not need to paint teachers as "bad guys".

If parents feel the need to control every aspect of their own children's education, they have the freedom to enroll their child in a private school at their own expense or to homeschool. One parent's concerns should not take away learning opportunities from my or anyone else's children. If there are books that parents do not want their individual children to check out from the library, that can be dealt with in a way that affects only their own children. Removing books from libraries makes them inaccessible to other parent's children. I am positive I read books in middle and high school that would be objectionable to some people. I read books about people who were different from me, things that I had never experienced, and even things I didn't and don't agree with. Sometimes it made me reconsider my ideas and sometimes it reaffirmed my own beliefs. Books make you think and help you understand the world from another's perspective even if you don't agree with that perspective.

The legislature would also be wise to consider economic ramifications of this and other anti-public education bills. A friend from my hometown who is living in another state shared that she and her husband were considering moving back to Kansas to be closer to home but hearing about attacks on public education make them hesitant to relocate their growing family. When we show we care about public education, we make Kansas more attractive to families and businesses looking to relocate. Another factor to consider is what happens when more teachers leave the profession? Public schools are vital to our communities, especially in rural areas and we need them operational!

Teachers want to teach. We want to feel supported or at the very least not attacked. Please make sure we are able to keep doing a good job for Kansas students and please don't let a small group of parents limit others' learning opportunities.

Katie Morris
Holton, KS
catharine.morris@yahoo.com

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Holly Broxterman

From: Rochelle Napier <rochellenapier@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 3:46 PM
To: Holly Broxterman
Subject: HB2662

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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 Rochelle Napier, a public school teacher in Reno County. I have three children who attend public schools. I am writing in opposition to HB2662 also referred to the Parent Bill of Rights.

I have several concerns in regard to this proposed bill. While I am not opposed to transparency, I do not feel that this bill is needed. Parents can access grade level standards via the KSDE website, scope and sequence documents can be found on most district websites, and materials used daily in class can be seen by looking at student work that is brought home, interacting with online student platforms, and attending board/PTO/Site Council meetings. If parents want to know what is being taught, there are plenty of opportunities afforded for them to do so; most parents are already as involved as they choose to be.

Good teaching requires constant reflection that results in changes to pacing and materials used, sometimes even in the middle of the lesson. Being bound to lesson plans created before meeting the students I am teaching is downright poor instruction. In order to meet the needs of all learners, I may use around 12 different resources a day, resulting in over 2,000 different resources used per school year. I have two teaching partners at my grade level in my building, each of us teaching the same standards, but with lessons tailored to the needs of our individual students. So in my school building and grade level alone, over 6,000 resources might need to be planned and logged before the school year has even begun. It would be an enormous and arduous task (to be completed during non-contract days) with no real benefit. As a parent, I want my children's teachers to make decisions based on what's best for my children on that day, not based on what they thought might work the summer before. Removing the flexibility for teachers to make instructional decisions is not what is best for students.

Please oppose HB2662 since parents already have access to the resources schools are already using, it does not promote good instructional practice, and would only serve to further frustrate current teachers considering leaving the profession as well as deterring those considering teaching as a career. Kansas kids deserve better.

Sincerely,

Rochelle Napier
2701 Westminster Dr., Hutchinson, KS

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 Mary Norris and I am a teacher who lives in Inman, KS. I am writing in opposition to HB2662 also referred to as the Parent Bill of Rights.

While I completely understand the reason for this bill, I fear that such a bill will put another burden on our already overwhelmed educators across the state. I also believe it may not accomplish its intended purpose. Here are my concerns with this bill:

- All materials posted by July 1
 - This will create a heavy workload during a time when teachers are not on contract. Who will pay teachers to do this amount of work over summers and what about those who take second jobs, complete required training, or just want to take a much-needed break? Educators should not be expected to do this amount of extra work during the summer and especially without pay.
 - Administrative burden—would more staff be required?
 - Add new webpages to each district's and schools' website
 - Requirement of every book, magazine to be reviewed and labeled for content, profanity, etc.
 - Process and contact person at the district and each building to address questions
- Lack of flexibility for necessary changes
 - This does not allow flexibility in delivering instruction. All students learn at a different pace and sometimes students require extra lessons or reinforcement of previously taught concepts. Education is a constant work in progress and to be required to take the time to notate every single change, new resource, worksheet, etc... will take teachers away from the important task of teaching the kids. Our industry is feeling incredibly overwhelmed due to the impact of the past three years, and I fear that our already overburdened educators will reach a breaking point with this added burden.

I love teaching. It has always been my passion, but I am already feeling close to my breaking point. I count on my summers (unpaid summers) to relax and rejuvenate. I need that time to ready myself for the next year. Also, my lessons change constantly to fit the needs of my students. For instance, just last week I had a concept in math that called for a one-day lesson. However, after one day it was quite evident that the class did not understand that concept. Math is a subject in which each lesson builds on the previous lesson. Therefore, I knew it was imperative that the class understand this concept. That one day lesson, took four days and numerous other resources. Under your bill, I would have had to take the time to upload every resource to some website (that probably would not be read by parents anyway). I am asking you to please allow us the flexibility to make necessary changes without this added burden. I cannot imagine being required to document every single item I use in my classroom. I encourage you to visit a public-school classroom and see what this will do to our education system. Please trust us! We are professionals who have received 4-6 years of education in addition to hours

upon hours of professional development. Are there those out there that may not have complete transparency? Absolutely – as that is the case with every profession – including yours. Why must we continue this trend of punishing the whole for the actions of the few? Those who do not have transparent classrooms will find a way around this bill – most likely by not posting what they are really teaching. So, what will happen is that the good teachers will be the ones burdened with this task and we are already teaching with transparency.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns. I request that you oppose HB2662. Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Mary Norris

Teacher

305 S Walnut, Inman KS 67546

Mbnorris424@gmail.com

Holly Broxterman

From: Lindsay Orion <lindsayorion@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 10:15 AM
To: Holly Broxterman
Subject: Testimonial against 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 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,

Lindsay Orion

Sent from Lindsay's iPhone