

PROPONENT Testimony on HB 2169
For the House Transportation Committee
January 27, 2020

Chairman Proehl and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony related to House Bill 2169.

It is with great pride for me to say that I am a Kansas Educator serving as Coordinator of Digital Literacy in the Wichita Public Schools. My role is to mentor both early career educators as well as veteran teachers through innovative classroom practice and curricular design. In addition, I volunteer as a teacher mentor and professional development leader for educators all across the state. Without question, I am passionate about elevating and celebrating the education profession in Kansas.

As a 2019 National Teacher Hall of Fame Inductee and as a 2013 Kansas Teacher of the Year, I feel a strong responsibility and privilege to elevate the teaching profession, especially for our early career educators. With the ongoing crisis of teacher shortages across Kansas, it's more important than ever to provide early career educators additional support for classroom materials, high-quality professional development, and exceptional curricular design. Our hope is the Proud Educator specialty plates will provide funding to assist in these efforts.

I respectfully ask that you support the passage of HB 2169. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony about this issue. I am happy to answer further questions at your request.

With great appreciation for your time and support,

Dyane Smokorowski 2019 National Teacher
Hall of Fame Inductee 2013 Kansas Teacher
of the Year
316.295.6453 smokorod@gmail.com