

March 11, 2013
House Bill 2197

Dear Committee Member,

I am attending this meeting today to speak against House Bill 2197 on behalf of Shawnee Mission West High School, the Sunflower League, as a parent and as a grandparent. I am currently the athletic director at Shawnee Mission West, a parent of a high school coach, and grandparent.

As the athletic director of Shawnee Mission West I am the representative to my parents, students and coaches of the Kansas State High School Activities Association. I hope each and every one of them know that if they have a question or concern they can come to me and know that I will try to answer any question they have, or carry forward any concern or suggestion they have to the Sunflower League or the Association. Many questions I can answer, but if I need additional information I can call or email the Association and get the information I need. I have done this on several occasions. If they have a concern, I can also take that to the league and/or the Association. I have done that several times. I am just one of the athletic directors throughout the state that each school has that can represent any parent or student/athlete.

As I mentioned, I am also a parent and grandparent. In the fall of 1994, I was the head baseball coach at Olathe South and the father of an eighth grader. I had coached his team since he was seven and had looked forward to continuing to coach him and his friends in high school and then the summer. In that fall the Association proposed that no high school coach could coach their athletes during the summer. I was one of those parents who disagreed with a proposed rule of the Association. Many coaches throughout the state opposed the proposal and I as a dad, had a unique situation. We went to work to stop the proposal. I appeared before the Associations fall and spring meetings with information on the issue and contacted each and every one of the members of the executive board and the board of directors. It took some work, but in the end, the Association did not approve the proposal and allowed coaches to coach during the summer, following their guidelines. I share this with you because I want you to know that there are ways to approach the Association and work towards change.

House Bill 2197 proposes enlarging the size of league ruling bodies and the Associations' Board of Directors. I believe that each member of a community already has representation in their league and the Association. The athletic director of their community's high school, an elected school board member, or that individual themselves can take their concern to the Association, as I mentioned in my situation in 1994. To add additional members to an organizations body can improve representation, if a group is not represented, but in the Association you will find each and every member of a community represented. Too many members can make it cumbersome for a group to move forward and make change. This is what I fear 2197 will do to the Board of Directors for the Association. I ask that you consider what I have shared with you and I hope you agree that there is no need at this time to move House Bill 2197 forward.

Sincerely,

Don A. Perkins
Athletic Director
Shawnee Mission West H.S.
Father/Grandfather