

**Testimony before the
Senate Ethics, Elections, and Local Government Committee
on
SB 211
submitted by
Dr. George Griffith, Superintendent, Trego County USD #208**

Chair Dennis Pyle and members of the Senate Ethics, Elections, and Local Government Committee, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to appear today and speak on behalf of Trego County Schools and to express the concerns related to SB 211.

Our Federal government is currently frozen because of partisan politics with enough blame for both sides of the isle. The political moves currently taking place in our state legislature is also a concern. This year it seems that legislative decisions are being made based on limited information or information from only those individuals that support the legislator's goal. During the time I have visited the state house this year, I have seen bills being presented to prevent the implementation of the Common Core Standards solely because of their perceived origin (purely political); constitutional amendments being passed to prevent the legal oversight of this body by the court system (I doubt this would be the case if the courts ruled on the side of the state); and after last year's tax bill has put the state in a financial hole in which the state cannot meet its constitutionally mandated financial obligations, current tax legislation is moving forward that will only reduce revenue further.

SB 211 will allow this narrow minded game of partisan politics to become part of municipal elections. Making this change would result in individuals being elected more as a protest against a national party than for the quality of the candidates.

There are currently too many political games being played at the state level with the future of our children and the quality of education they receive. Do not allow further damage to be done by allowing these partisan games to become a part of school board elections. I strongly urge you to vote against SB 211.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to SB 211.

Respectfully,

Dr. George Griffith, Superintendent USD#208