

I was born and raised in Kansas. I have a BS in agriculture from Kansas State. I am a business owner, farmer, and have served locally on our BOE for 32 years. School Board members elected in their local communities are persons who share a love of education and a desire to maintain and improve the education system for the youth, who are the future of the country. HB 2345 addressing "Conflict of interest", in my opinion, is a bill that is not needed. Conflict regulations already exist for the business areas addressed. BOE members serve in a voluntary position, donating hours to the community in the interest of education. Small communities have dedicated individuals who serve selflessly. Communities often have difficulty filling positions on the BOE. Falsely claiming a conflict of interest because of relationships to district employees will have a negative effect on qualified candidates for BOE positions. This bill, if passed, will have a negative affect on local boards requiring from 1 to 7 members of the current boards to resign or be disqualified from running. This impact will be felt through schools. When taking into consideration the number of employees in a school district the candidate pool is greatly limited. It is important to have qualified candidates who truly care about education to continue to improve education and support learning in our communities in Kansas. Limiting the candidate pool with this bill will have a negative effect on local education. I am very familiar with the way contracts are handled and how BOE works. I see no way that BOE members can affect the wages and benefits of a single employee. It is also advantageous to be made aware first hand of what is happening in the schools. Vote no for HB 2345 so our schools in Kansas can continue to provide a quality education for our children, the future of our country.

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