



Testimony on HB 2179

Due process for terminating teachers' contracts

before the

House Committee on Education

by

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Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on **HB 2179**. As we understand the bill, it would restore the previous teacher due process law repealed in 2015.

This fall, our Legislative Committee proposed, and our full Delegate Assembly approved overwhelmingly, the following statement:

KASB believes the final decision on teacher due process procedures should be made by the local board, subject to constitutional protections. KASB supports a cooperative effort with representatives of teachers and administrators to develop a due process system that protects the interests of all parties.

Accordingly, we oppose passage of this bill in its current form at this time because we did not support features of the previous law. Our position was *not* that the previous due process system should be eliminated, but we did believe the previous law, primarily because of court interpretations, had shifted too much authority to the hearing officer in teacher due process cases. We supported revision, not repeal.

Our members understand concerns about the process under which the due process law for teachers in school districts was repealed. That is why our position is to work with the organizations representing teachers, administrators, superintendents and school boards toward a common position all sides can support.

The model for this approach was the successful effort to amend the Professional Negotiations Act. After a year of discussion, all four groups agreed on changes in the negotiations process that addressed major concerns while preserving the most important elements of the law for each party.

We ask the committee to give us the opportunity to improve the system for all interested parties, including, ultimately, the students of Kansas.