

February 15, 2022

The Honorable Molly Baumgardner, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Education
Statehouse, Room 144-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Baumgardner:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 496 by Senate Committee on Education

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 496 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 496 would establish the Parents' Bill of Rights. The bill would provide that every parent in the state would have the right to direct the upbringing, education, care, and mental health of the parent's child, including the right to:

1. Direct the education and care of the child;
2. Direct the upbringing and moral or religious training of the child;
3. Request, access and inspect all written and electronic records maintained by a school relating to the child;
4. Be informed of and inspect curriculum, instructional materials and other materials made available to be taught to the child;
5. Attend public meetings of a school board and have the right to question and address school officials during public comment periods or through letters, electronic communications, or in-person meetings;
6. Make healthcare decisions for the child, including the right to make decisions regarding vaccinations and immunizations;
7. Expect that the child, each teacher, and educator of the child, cannot be compelled to affirm, believe, profess or adhere to any idea that violates the Civil Rights Act of 1964;
8. Expect that no course of instruction would direct or compel the child to personally affirm, adopt or adhere to any idea that violates the Civil Rights Act of 1964;

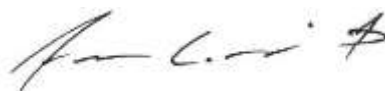
9. Expect that the child's school would not contract for teacher professional development with providers that promote racially essentialist doctrines or practices that have been held to violate the Civil Rights Act of 1964;
10. Expect that each teacher and educator of the child endeavors to present facts without distortion, bias or personal prejudice;
11. Expect each teacher and educator will work to eliminate coercion that forces teachers to support actions and ideologies that violate individual professional integrity; and
12. Expect the right to assert any other inalienable or constitutional right that is reserved to the parent and the child under state or federal law.

Each school district would be required to develop and adopt policies to guarantee a parent's right to be involved in the child's education. The policies would be developed in consultation with parents, teachers, and school administrators and would include policies and procedures for parents to:

1. Be informed of and have the ability to inspect any materials, activities, curriculum, lessons, syllabi, surveys, tests, questionnaires, examinations, books, magazines, handouts, professional development and training materials, and any other materials that are to be posted on the Parent Transparency Portal of each school district;
2. Object to any learning material or activity on the basis that the material or activity harms the child or impairs the parent's firmly held beliefs, values, or principles and have the ability to withdraw the child from the activity, class or program in which objectionable material is used;
3. Request that the school designate any book, magazine, or other material available to students in the school library as an item available for parental review and is available in the newly created Parent Transparency Portal; and
4. Challenge the material or educational benefit of any book, magazine, or other material available to students in the school library so that a successful challenge results in the removal of the material.

The Department of Education indicates that any fiscal effect from the enactment of SB 496 would be negligible.

Sincerely,



Adam Proffitt
Director of the Budget

cc: Craig Neuenswander, Education