



900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 600
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212
(785) 296-3203
www.ksde.org

Danny Zeck
District 1

Melanie Haas
District 2

Michelle Dombrosky
District 3

Ann E. Mah
District 4

Cathy Hopkins
District 5

Dr. Deena Horst
District 6

Dennis Hershberger
District 7

Betty J. Arnold
District 8

Jim Porter
District 9

Jim McNiece
District 10

OPPONENT IN-PERSON TESTIMONY ON HB 2612
COMMITTEE ON K-12 EDUCATION BUDGET
Hearing on Monday, February 5, 2024
Submitted by Ann Mah and Dr. Deena Horst
Kansas State Board of Education Liaisons

Chairperson Kristey Williams and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing us to testify today in opposition to HB 2612. The Kansas State Board of Education (State Board) believes HB 2612 is unnecessary and in derogation of the self-executing authority granted to us by the Kansas Constitution.

The State Board already requires school districts to remain "in compliance with, or working with the State Board to achieve compliance with, all applicable federal and state statutes and regulations." HB 2612 takes away the ability of the State Board to provide technical support and guidance to schools by mandating immediate revocation of a district's accreditation upon a finding that it is not completely in compliance with state law.

Additionally, HB 2612 attempts to create a private right of action for anyone that does not agree with the State Board's determination of whether a school district is in compliance with applicable laws. The Kansas State Department of Education and the State Board work diligently to address concerns raised by parents, staff members, administrators, and the community. The manner in which those concerns are handled at the state level should not be delegated to non-elected individuals. If the State Board wishes to amend its accreditation regulations to allow for such strong, individual input, it will do so without the demand imposed this bill.

For those reasons, the State Board strongly opposes this legislation.

2/1/2024