



DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL

ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

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To legislators who have a vote on HB 2511,

My name is Jason Menard, and I am the Assistant Principal/Activities Director for Douglass High School, and Douglass (Sisk) Middle School. For the 2021-2022 school year, I am also the President of the Kansas Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (KIAAA), which is a professional organization for all of the activities directors in the state of Kansas.

I write this letter today encouraging you to vote **against** HB 2511.

KSHSAA and member schools provide educational based athletics for the students that are bona fide, eligible students to the standards set forth by the KSHSAA as well as local boards of education. These standards include but are not limited to attendance, academic performance, and behavior. You always hear the phrase that activities are an extension of the classroom in which educators use these activities and student involvement as means to motivate students academically, help improve student attendance, and in their behaviors. Another aspect of importance, but more difficult to measure is the life lessons that we teach kids both in the classroom daily, but extend those philosophies onto the playing fields, courts, or stages. These life lessons are built through relationships of teachers who get the opportunity to coach their students they see on a daily basis. Relationships that are strong, and built around time spent together, can help students with leadership, hard work, effort, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship, and good citizenship.

One thing we teach our students every day, is that there are positive and negative consequences to every decision. Students and parents that choose the home school setting are doing so because they felt it was in their best academic or social interests. But by choosing the homeschool route, you are also forgoing opportunities to participate in their local schools activities. There are plenty of other options and leagues for them to participate in, trying to integrate homeschool students into public or private school activities is completely unnecessary.

Another challenge that I see would be the accountability on documenting educational student achievement and performance. Homeschool students would not be following the same curriculum standards that the other local students are responsible for. They would not be taught and graded by our building teachers, or even having to balance up to seven hours of different classes every day. The accountability levels would be different.

I appreciate you taking my recommendation into consideration as you discuss this matter. Just as I have discussed above, your decisions will have consequences. I feel that the negative consequences of House Bill 2511 far outweigh any positives you are considering and would be detrimental to local schools, students, coaches, school boards, and the Kansas State High School Activities Association who have built and maintained educational based activities for years. I have included my contact information below if you have any additional questions.

Thank you!

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