

Kansas People of Color Action Coalition

Testimony in Opposition of HB 2662

On behalf of the Kansas People of Color Action Coalition, a coalition consisting of individuals across the state of Kansas that support legislative action enhancing the betterment of communities of color, we submit this written testimony in opposition of the passage of HB 2662 for the following reasons:

- 1) It is ambiguous in that it purports to support and enhance the rights of parents while disregarding the right of parents that support full access and rights to all elements of a quality and truthful education.
- 2) It is designed to intentionally subject teachers, school districts and the state education system to cumbersome activity for the purpose of denying teachers the right to teach lived experiences through the true history of this nation and denying children the right to learn about such experiences and history.
- 3) It is ambiguous as it purports to support the rights of parents, yet it is designed to restrict the rights of parents by placing such overextending and extreme requirements on the school system that it ultimately limits the rights of access.
- 4) It is racist, sexist, immoral and harmful.
- 5) It is not the place of the legislature to legislate the teachings but to support the education system in its teaching of critical pedagogy philosophies.
- 6) This bill and similar bills are designed to take away the protections that were provided to K-12 teachers.
- 7) This bill is premature and not needed, desired or necessary for the people of Kansas. It is a designed method for a select few to drive a process filled with untruths that can only be defined as the "people who cried wolf".
- 8) This testimony is designed to again uphold white people of privilege who have only brought forth this matter because they see themselves in a negative light through historical and current actions undertaken.
- 9) This testimony would result in the distortion of historical and lived experiences and lend itself to an often-observed pattern of leaving out communities of color and their right to have their stories and lived experiences shared for the benefit of helping others to understand and reflect on what genuine unity really means.
- 10) This type of bill has no place in Kansas legislative chambers or in the Nation's legislative chambers as it is simply designed to ingratiate the privileged while continuing to ignore the presence and existence of others.

Thank you for allowing the Kansas People of Color Communities to have a voice in this process and we trust that it is not taken lightly.

Dr. Glenda Overstreet Vaughn

President and Founder

February 15, 2022