

7125 Alhambra St.
Prairie Village, KS 66208

February 14, 2022

Chairwoman Kristey Williams and Committee Members
Room 546-S, State Capital
Topeka, KS 66612

RE: HB2662 Parent Bill of Rights

Dear Representative Williams and Committee Members,

My name is Jana Graham, and I am currently a middle school teacher in Olathe, KS. I am writing in **opposition to HB2662**.

There are several elements of this bill that concern me. First, parents already have access to many of the items the bill references as parents' rights (e.g., curriculum, ability to attend board meetings and address the board, ability to meet with their child's teacher(s) and receive clarification or materials from the classroom. Creating a Parent Bill of Rights when parents already have so many of these rights seems unnecessary.

Next, I find more alarming the requirement to post every resource, website, book, article, etc. online. As a teacher already under an enormous amount of stress, the pressure to maintain a comprehensive list of every single item used in class and posting this online is staggering. I believe this time would be better spent crafting lessons to more deeply engage students and prepare them to successfully master the content included in the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards.

Finally, the most distressing element of this bill is the consequence it is likely to have on education in the state of Kansas. Teachers are buckling under the weight of restoring students' learning loss, managing ever-increasing student behaviors, and dealing with disrespectful and threatening parents and media. The passionate teachers I know are willing to negotiate all of that because they love their students and care deeply about their success. This bill removes teachers' ability to flexibly respond to student needs and interests. I work to incorporate the activities and hobbies of my students into my instruction (e.g., a class with many basketball players lends itself to using basketball examples during math instruction, a struggling student who loves Legos may be more motivated if the instruction/materials incorporate Legos, etc.). Because this bill makes it more difficult for teachers to do what they love and are best at, within the context of extraordinary stress, I believe it will have the effect of dimming the passion of the best teachers and likely pushing some to leave education altogether.

I urge you to oppose HB2662 on the grounds that parents already have access to many of the rights listed, it will take time away from planning for student success, and it will have an exceptionally negative impact on teachers in the state (as well as corresponding unfortunate implications for students).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ms. Jana Graham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ms. Jana Graham
jana.m.graham@gmail.com