

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,

I write **to testify in opposition to HB2662**, or the Parent Bill of Rights. Since 1989, I've been an English professor in McPherson, Kansas, and throughout that time I've been involved in training young people to teach English in public schools. I've also been very involved in working with my college's Teacher Education Board to prepare certification reports for the Dept. of Education.

I have many difficulties with HB2662, but here I will focus on three. First, **parents already have access** to most of the materials that the bill would provide for them, but very few ask for such materials. That means that the bill places a **heavy burden on all teachers** for the sake of a relatively few parents.

Second, the burden this bill would place on teachers would be debilitating, and would **prevent them from serving Kansas students** to the best of their ability. The bill says that teachers would have to post online (by July 1, when most are not on contract), every bit of material that they intend to use in their classrooms for the next year. However, in Kansas we train prospective teachers to tailor their lessons to the needs of their students, and to plan to help each individual student reach the highest possible goals. This would be impossible if HB2662 should pass, because teachers would be completing, by law, all their next year's plans before they had met their students. Anyone who knows a Kansas teacher is aware of the work he or she does each summer (without pay) to find new ways to help students meet learning goals; this would no longer be an option for teachers.

Third, the bill provides that books, whether used in class or appearing on a shelf, could be banned, "unless the item is unequivocally not deserving of such designation." This would **put Kansas students at a severe disadvantage in competition** for colleges, nationally and state-wide. As I review books for Advanced Placement courses in English, I see none – not one – that could not be objected to for any reason. That is the nature of great literature; it challenges ideas and expands horizons. Most students would have access to such literature, guided by good teachers. Kansas students would not.

Please think carefully before you vote on this bill. In Kansas, the state exercises extensive oversight into the training of teachers; I have participated in this oversight, and I support it completely. But if we rigorously train young people to be good teachers, and then, by law, prevent them from being good teachers, from exercising the very knowledge and skills we've required them to develop, they will certainly abandon the field or look for work in other states.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kim Stanley

1129 N. Grimes St., McPherson, KS 67460, stanleyk@mcpherson.edu