

House Committee on K-12 Education Budget Members –

My name is Paige Maret. I have been watching the state of our schools and school district in Lawrence since the beginning of the pandemic, and what I see are overwhelmed teachers and parents, and budget shortfalls that will require major cuts. I don't believe the system can handle any additional stressors, and I don't believe the requirements of HB2662 are necessary. I am writing to oppose HB2662.

I am conservative and I absolutely believe that parents have a right to know what is being taught to their children. I also believe that if you are involved in your local school and your children's lives, you will know what is being taught to your children - without needing government involvement and without putting added reporting and inventory requirements on district staff and teachers. I also believe that the responsibility for instilling values in children should fall squarely on their parents' shoulders, not on public school employees, and that exposure to conflicting views and values can be difficult but can also become a teaching moment.

I know personally of exceptional teachers who have taught my children and have since left public schools or are contemplating leaving public schools due to the current climate. Treating our teachers poorly will lead to losing even more. Continuing to pile on unnecessary administrative work, even if it is not directly tasked to teachers, still takes away district resources in a time when our district is considering closing schools and cutting arts and athletics programs due to budget shortfalls. HB2662 will contribute no positives and many negatives to our education system at a time when forward progress is tenuous at best, and we cannot afford that. Our kids are more important than that, and so are our teachers.

In summary, I oppose HB2662 because I believe it will result in:

- more government involvement at a time when we need less
- disrespect to teachers when the vast majority deserve more respect
- unnecessary administrative reporting requirements, which will bring more stress to teachers and take away resources from our kids
- an expectation that parental involvement in schools is not required and that schools should be tasked with teaching our children values

Thank you for your time.