

Written Testimony
HB 2662
House Committee on K-12 Education Budget
By
Shannon Kimball

February 16, 2022

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to HB 2662. I strongly urge the committee to reject this bill in its current form.

I am a parent of three children in USD 497. In addition, I have served on the USD 497 Board of Education for eleven years. I oppose HB 2662 because, at its core, it allows other parents to interfere with my children's rights to a free and appropriate public education that meets the constitutional and statutory requirements applicable in the state of Kansas. Parents have the right to direct their child's education, and those rights already include the ability to choose a school setting that meets their child's needs. My children's needs will not be fully met, however, in an environment where teachers not permitted to do their jobs because of the restrictions placed on their professional work by this bill.

Furthermore, the bill micromanages the work that is constitutionally reserved to the authority of local boards of education and to the State Board of Education in the Kansas Constitution. As a locally elected school board member, it is my job, not the legislature's job, to "maintain, develop, and operate" the local public schools in my community. As a community leader, I have the opportunity to receive input from all sectors of my community, and to use that input to fulfill my constitutional obligations in a way that best meets my community's needs.

Local boards of education and the teaching profession have earned and deserve your trust. Please affirm that trust by voting against this bill. Thank you for your consideration.