

February 13, 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 Shannon Wedel. I am a parent and teacher who resides in Great Bend. I am writing in opposition to HB2662 also referred to as the Parent Bill of Rights. This proposed legislation is both completely unnecessary and an overreach into the professional lives of teachers. Curriculum choices are already completely open to the public. Subject matter taught and resources used are already available to parents via syllabi provided openly by teachers. Lesson plans are already monitored by school districts. Resources used by teachers are already monitored by school districts. School districts already have opt out policies available to parents who might object to content. Local School Boards already have the responsibility to take care of all of these things. The state legislature DOES NOT NEED to police something that is already being taken care of at the local level.

It is completely ignorant to believe that a good teacher can tell you every single resource and lesson they are going to utilize a year in advance. It is the job of a good teacher to provide for the needs of their students, and you cannot possibly know what those needs are before you have even met your students. Some may need more remediation than others, which will mean more resources than others. Some students are at a more advanced level and may need higher level resources than previously planned in order to challenge them. Again, a teacher cannot possibly know that before they have even met their students. Bills like this only make it more difficult for teachers to meet the needs of their students. Teachers need to have the flexibility to teach to their students' needs, and this does not allow for that.

Our state is already dealing with a huge teacher shortage, which is being compounded by teacher burnout. As a teacher myself, I know that expecting teachers to do the things proposed in this bill will only succeed in making the situation worse. There will be teachers who leave the profession if this or similar bills pass. Bills such as this do not lead to better teaching, they only serve to create more work for already overburdened teachers. This and similar bills fly in the face of trusting highly educated professionals to do their jobs in the best way that they can. Teachers deserve more credit for the work they do dedicating their lives to educating children. I personally know multiple teachers who are considering leaving the profession - not because they no longer care about children, but because the burden placed upon them is becoming far too high. They can take jobs elsewhere that pay them better and support them more.

Allow local School Boards to continue to take care of their own districts. Allow local administrators to continue to monitor their own teachers and teaching practices. Allow teachers to continue to do what is best for their individual students without strangling oversight. I fervently request that you oppose HB2662 and similar bills.

Sincerely,

Shannon Wedel
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