

February 15, 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 Taylor Bohannon. I am a college student from Belle Plaine, Kansas and currently attend college in McPherson, Kansas. I am writing in **opposition to HB2662** also referred to as the Parent Bill of Rights.

As a future teacher, there are several components to this bill that concern me. The first of these concerns is the section that states all materials would have to be posted by July 1st. My question is, how is a teacher supposed to know what kinds of students they will have in their classroom, what adaptations and modifications need to be made for certain students or the class as a whole, and what academic pace will be the most effective for students when they have not even met them yet? I also believe that this requirement would only be setting new teachers up for failure. The “teacher burnout” that is widely talked about, would only take effect much sooner as a result of this and drive people away from pursuing a profession in education.

I am also extremely concerned that this bill promotes and encourages book banning and other aspects of censorship. In section 2, it states that if just one parent finds offense, the book could be labeled or banned. I am a firm believer that school should be a place that teaches students how to think, not what to think. By banning certain books that discuss different identities, cultures, personal experiences, and historical accounts, it deprives students of receiving a well-rounded education and from being informed members of society.

As a future high school teacher, I want my classroom environment to be one that is welcoming for various types of discussions, differing opinions, and a safe space where all students can succeed and feel welcomed. The Parent Bill of Rights, however, would infringe upon this. These restrictions are going to harm not only the teachers, but the students and their experiences while at school. If we are concerned about the types of materials students are being exposed to, let’s look at social media and the types of programs being watched online. As educators we should be encouraging students to explore controversial topics and be able to form their own opinions and beliefs, all while under the guidance of teachers and other adults.

Based on the grounds that 1) this bill will only increase teacher burnout, 2) prohibit students from having an education that is tailored to individual needs, and 3) promote censorship, I urge you to oppose HB2662.

Sincerely,

Taylor Bohannon
224 Willow Drive, Belle Plaine, KS
tay.bohannon10@gmail.com