

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 am Zachary Dickerson. I am a 3rd and 4th grade math teacher who lives in Oswego, KS. I am writing in opposition to HB2662 also referred to as the Parent Bill of Rights.

I believe there are a couple of issues that are asking a lot of educators. The first being that this bill would require all materials to be posted by July 1. At that time, teachers on not on contract, so that would require them to work during non-contract time, which we already do quite a bit during the school year. Also, it would potentially require more staff to make sure all paperwork is in on time, so that you don't end up with lawsuits, fines, etc. The second issue that worries me with this bill is the increased stress on a profession that is already struggling to find teachers. With the teacher shortage already at a record high, more stress would potentially cause more teachers resigning or retiring. This in turn would lead to more children struggling to get an education and further progress their lives. Finally, the academic integrity of materials is at risk if you post it publicly for all to see. I am afraid that if you post these materials, students and their parents could use these materials prior to testing.

This issue is important to me because I fear for how education is changing for the worse and this is a step in that direction. Also, as a parent of two children who aren't quite school age yet, it scares me to think of what their future in education will be as they get older. Teaching is something that is an art and takes many years to perfect. If we start letting anybody be teachers, it will greatly decrease the value of the student's education. With teacher burnout, I believe that is where education is heading. Also, as a teacher myself, the chance of me being stressed out and burnt out will lead to me teaching less complete lessons and the children in my class taking less from the lessons I teach. This would also prevent teachers (myself included) to have spur of the moment changes to lessons that are sometimes necessary based on the day/class.

Based upon the information stated above, I request that you oppose HB2662.

Sincerely,

Zachary Dickerson

Mr. Zachary Dickerson
124 N. Commercial Street Oswego, KS 67356
zachary.dickerson@student.labette.edu