

# STATE OF KANSAS



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GOVERNOR LAURA KELLY

## MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

### REGARDING VETO OF SENATE BILL 58

Throughout the pandemic, parents had to step up and do the impossible. Go to work. Take care of their children. Teach, tutor and facilitate their children's learning. When it comes to their children's education, parents can and should play a vital role. We know that parental engagement in their child's education greatly impacts the outcome.

This bill, however, is about politics, not parents. Over one hundred Kansas parents testified against this bill. It would create more division in our schools and would be costly. Money that should be spent in the classroom would end up being spent in the courtroom.

That's unacceptable, especially after our efforts to bring Democrats and Republicans together to fully fund our schools for the last four years.

I look forward to working with the Legislature in a bipartisan fashion on a bill that gives parents a seat at the table without harming school funding or exacerbating the issues facing our teachers.

Therefore, under Article 2, Section 14(a) of the Constitution, I hereby veto Senate Bill 58.

THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

BY THE GOVERNOR

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laura Kelly", written over a horizontal line.

DATED

A handwritten date in blue ink, "April 15, 2022", written over a horizontal line.

SENATE BILL No. 58

AN ACT concerning education; relating to schools and school districts; establishing the parents' bill of rights.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

Section 1. (a) The provisions of this section shall be known and may be cited as the parents' bill of rights.

(b) The legislature finds that a quality education is central to a child's development and long-term success in life and that a parent has a right to direct the upbringing, education and care of the parent's child. The legislature further finds that a parent shall have the right to play a central role in a child's education, to obtain critical information about what is being taught or provided in the classroom and to take action when a parent feels that the quality or content of a child's education does not align with the values and expectations the parent expects and deserves.

(c) Every parent of a child in this state shall have a right to direct the upbringing, education, care and mental health of the parent's child. The following parental rights are reserved to each parent of a child in this state:

- (1) The right to direct the education and care of such child;
- (2) the right to direct the upbringing and the moral or religious training of such child;
- (3) the right to request, access and inspect all written and electronic records maintained by a school relating to such child;
- (4) the right to be informed of and inspect the curriculum, instructional materials and any other materials that are made available or taught to such child in the child's school;
- (5) the right to attend publicly designated meetings of the local school board and the right to question and address school officials during designated public comment periods or through letters, electronic communications or in-person meetings;
- (6) the right to make healthcare and medical decisions for such child;
- (7) the right to expect that such child, and each teacher and educator of such child, shall not be compelled to affirm, believe, profess or adhere to any idea that violates the civil rights act of 1964;
- (8) the right to expect that no course of instruction or unit of study shall direct or otherwise compel the child to personally affirm, adopt or adhere to any idea that violates the civil rights act of 1964;
- (9) the right to expect that the child's school shall not contract for teacher professional development with providers that promote racially essentialist doctrines or practices that have been held to violate the civil rights act of 1964;
- (10) the right to expect that each teacher and educator of such child will endeavor to present facts without distortion, bias or personal prejudice;
- (11) the right to expect that each teacher and educator of such child shall work to eliminate coercion that forces teachers and educators to support actions and ideologies that violate individual professional integrity; and
- (12) the right to assert any other inalienable or constitutional right that is reserved to the parent and the child pursuant to state or federal law.

(d) The board of education of each school district shall develop and adopt policies to guarantee a parent's right to be involved in a child's education. Such policies shall be developed in consultation with parents, teachers and school administrators and shall include policies and procedures for a parent to:

- (1) Be informed of and have the ability to inspect any materials, activities, curriculum, syllabi, surveys, questionnaires, books, magazines, handouts, professional development and training materials and any other

materials or activities that are provided to the parent's child;

(2) inspect and review any educational or health records maintained by the school that pertain to the parent's child;

(3) object to any learning material or activity on the basis that such material or activity harms the child or impairs the parent's firmly held beliefs, values or principles and withdraw such child from the activity, class or program in which the material is used; and

(4) challenge the material or educational benefit of any book, magazine or any other material available to students in the school library such that a successful challenge results in the removal of the book, magazine or material from the school.

(e) As used in this section, "parent" means a parent, guardian or custodian or any other person who has authority to act on behalf of a child.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

I hereby certify that the above BILL originated in the SENATE, and passed that body

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SENATE adopted

Conference Committee Report \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*President of the Senate.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Secretary of the Senate.*

Passed the HOUSE

as amended \_\_\_\_\_

HOUSE adopted

Conference Committee Report \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Speaker of the House.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Chief Clerk of the House.*

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Governor.*