

Chairman Huebert and members of the Education Committee,

Here are my thoughts on HS 2288. I completely agree with this new house bill in an effort to protect both students and our educators with their First Amendment Rights when it comes to Free Speech, and that also pertains to Freedom of Religion.

Several years ago after a Cheylin vs Weskan Basketball game at the WKLL Tournament in Colby, both teams met at center court for a short prayer. Later that spring or summer the Freedom from Religion Foundation based I believe in Minnesota sent a threatening letter to both schools using a photo shot from our Video Stream of students praying.

Both schools and students were being threatened of their absolute Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Religious expression.

I believe any student should be able to express his or her Religious belief without repercussions. If a student wishes not to participate in a short Prayer following a school event they should be allowed to leave if they want.

I've been a long time Broadcaster here in Kansas and own the company that Video Streamed that game, Open Spaces Sports.

Thank you,

Rich Epp

Colby, KS