

Written PROPONENT Testimony on HB 2489
For the House Transportation Committee
January 29, 2020
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Early Childhood Educator, Kansas Teacher of the Year 2020

Chairman Proehl and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony related to House Bill 2489.

I am an early childhood educator in Winfield, an active member of Kansas National Education Association, and the 2020 Kansas Teacher of the Year, but write on behalf of myself as an educator. I first heard of HB 2489 from Erica Shook of McPherson, who is the chair of Kansas Educators Support Foundation. As an advocate for both teacher-retention and early-career educators, I was excited to hear that the idea for “proud educator” specialty license plates easily addresses these two areas of importance.

In my first year teaching, I remember the struggle of waiting two months for my first full paycheck. That, combined with entering a classroom equipped only with basic supplies, and beginning my student loan payments, meant for a very lean year for me financially. When Ms. Shook shared what the “proud educator” speciality plates could do for first-year teachers, I was eager to support this project. The proceeds from this initiative will allow grants to be given to first-year teachers, two times a year! Not only will the “proud educator” plates allow us to give back to first-year teachers, it will also allow us a cohesive avenue to publicly share how proud we are to be a part of our profession. Educators make up a significant part of the workforce in Kansas, and showing pride in our jobs can help us continue to recruit and retain quality educators in our great state.

I respectfully ask that you support the passage of HB 2489. Thank you for your consideration and the work that you do.

Tabatha Rosproy
2020 Kansas Teacher of the Year