

January 24, 2022

Dear Kansas House and Senate Education Budget Committee,

I write to you today in support of HB 2513. HB 2513 puts parents more in charge of this over-reaching trend to survey and collect massive amounts of data on students. This bill gives more transparency and amends the 2014 Student Data Privacy Act.

Below are the reasons I am in favor of this bill:

- **SEL is still connected to Common Core.** There's a mishmash of psycho-social, neuroscience talk, and programs are not always well-explained to parents, or well-understood. SEL covers SO much!
- **Tracking children's behavior with SEL.** What happens if the student has a bad year? What if their parents divorce in 5th grade and they have problems then, but they've adjusted by 8th grade? Will their behavior from 5th grade haunt them forever? Where will that information be when the student applies for college? There was a reason schools kept a student's record in a locked filing cabinet.
- **SEL and psychological profiling.** SEL assessments for parents, children, and teachers ask personal questions. What right do adults have to scrutinize a child's thoughts and feelings for data? These aren't merely interest inventories.

The assessments seem designed for school psychologists for when children have difficulties in school. Why do *all children* require such serious assessment? Most children come to school ready to learn and without major behavioral problems.

- **SEL is insulting to parents.** Most parents teach their children well when it comes to behavior. Children come to school curious and eager to learn and they have good behavior. Why are scholars and politicians making it seem otherwise?

Childhood should be a carefree time, where children learn and play in ways that are developmentally normal and natural.

Parents and most teachers are tired of academic programs like Common Core and never-ending testing, such as SEL. Trying to increase standards by involving a child's feelings seems not only sketchy but downright wrong.

Sincerely,

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