

From: [Gene R](#)
To: [Holly Broxterman](#)
Cc: [Cindy Holscher](#)
Subject: Written Testimony in Opposition to HB2550 from Gene Rardin, former State Representative
Date: Monday, January 31, 2022 9:28:38 AM

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I am a former Shawnee Mission District teacher and State Representative
My email is grardin@gmail.com, phone 913-620-4526

Chair Williams and members of the committee:
I wish to provide this written testimony in opposition to HB2550

When I first learned of the content of this bill, I was struck by how closely its ultimate intent mirrored the efforts to replace public schools with private schools which was orchestrated in the southern U.S. after the 1954 Supreme Court Decision in the Brown vs Board of Education case. The intent was to keep black students from being educated in quality public schools, along with southern white children.

This was certainly a low point in American history and something we never want to repeat.

With the recent trend we see in providing laws to make it easier for individual parents to accomplish book banning for entire student bodies and the accompanying fear of providing a comprehensive look at all aspects of American History, including those which are distasteful, passage of this bill will only accelerate this very dangerous decline of quality public education for all students and create a two-tiered education system with no accountability for private schools.

I believe it would also violate Section 6 of the Kansas Constitution in providing public taxpayer funds to religious, private schools.

I urge you to vote against passage of this bill.

Sincerely,
Gene Rardin, former State Representative, District 16
913-620-4526