

Name of conferee: Jenna Gorton

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Position: opponent

Bill: [HB 2662](#)- Establishing the parents' bill of rights and academic transparency act, requiring school districts to establish parent transparency portals to provide information on materials that are used or made available in schools, removing the affirmative defense for schools for the crime of promotion to minors of material that is harmful to minors and prohibiting schools from non-renewing a teacher's contract for refusing to teach against certain beliefs or practices.

Seeking verbal testimony on WebX.

Testimony

Part of being a future educator involves taking the time to watch other teachers teach in their classrooms. When Washburn University sent me to observe at Topeka High, I expected to catch up with some of the wonderful teachers who coached me in debate and who inspired me to become an educator. Instead I ended up in a cafeteria, where I watched teachers mark off the names of students who weren't even enrolled in their classes. There were history, English, and science classrooms intermixed in the cafeteria, being babysat by teachers who didn't even teach in those subject areas. There was no teaching. The teachers were only there to supervise, because there aren't enough teachers to watch their own classrooms. Teachers I was supposed to watch teach, were needed instead to act as substitutes.

The teacher shortage is already happening. It is already impacting students. Are we really in a position right now, where we want to introduce another stressor to the teachers we have left in the field? I don't care what side of this issue you might be on. What I can tell you is that **right now** asking the teachers who are already overwhelmed with additional workloads and the ever changing covid produces to change their curriculum and to add planning time for their future lesson plans will only make this shortage worse. Even if you support this bill, right now is the wrong time to pass it.

I know each and every one of us has been impacted by a teacher in our lives. Students right now are being deprived of building relationships with their teachers. This bill isn't just about the content. It's also about the timing. Teachers deserve to have some sense of consistency in these hectic times. Teachers deserve to see their students grow. And students deserve that consistency too. Please vote no on this bill. There's always another time to have this debate.

Right now, is not that time. Right now is the time to recognize that what little routine teachers currently have, is how many of them are making it through this. Thank you for your time.