

February 15, 2022

RE: Full Opposition to HB 2662

House Committee Members,

I am writing written testimony to FULLY OPPOSE HB 2662.

My name is Kendra Stoppel, and I am a teacher in Scott County, USD 466. I am a 22-year veteran teacher that truly has a heart for what is best for my students. I am writing you today to ask that you do NOT pass HB 2662. I am very conservative when it comes to politics and do believe that parents have the right to know what their child is learning. The reality is what we teach is online for the parent to view at ANY time. The standards are readily available on our Kansas State Department of Education website for any parent/community member interested in seeing them and always have been. Curriculum materials used to teach these standards are approved by superintendents and local Board of Education members – people voted on by the public to represent them. Here are my reasons for opposing HB2662:

- By June 30, we have not even met the students we are to be teaching. We do not know what the dynamics of this class will consist of: behavior needs, number of English Language Learners, number of students on IEPs, social-emotional deficits, their strengths and weaknesses, much less their prior knowledge in the academic areas.
- I already have a pacing guide to ensure the standards are taught at the end of the year. My daily lessons change not just weekly or daily, but sometimes minute by minute. Teachers must have the flexibility to modify their lesson plans to meet the needs of their students. It is impossible to anticipate and accurately list every single activity, presentation, handout, website, or worksheet that may be needed to do this a year ahead of time.
- At the elementary level, I have a DAILY lesson plan for the following areas: morning review, literacy centers, reading Multi-Tiered System of Support, reading core, language arts and writing, math core, math Multi-Tiered System of Support, handwriting, science, social studies, and social-emotional. The idea that we should now be required to create a year's worth of plans for EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THESE AREAS before the year even begins is not realistic or an effective use of our time.
- Part of the fun of teaching is finding new ways to teach the standards. I am always looking for more effective strategies, ideas, and activities to engage my students and grow as a teacher. When I find these, I want to be able to implement them into the classroom and not teach with my hands tied because those activities are not on a preapproved list.
- Universities are already noticing an alarming decrease in the number of enrolled education majors. Bills like this only help to push teachers out of the profession by undermining them and not treating them with the respect deserved. This will lead to a crisis and is NOT what is best for our kids.

Again, I urge you to oppose HB 2662.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter,

Kendra Stoppel