

February 14, 2022

Chairwoman Kristey Williams and Committee Members
Room 546-S, State Capital
Topeka, KS 66612

RE: HB2662 Parent Bill of Rights

Dear Representative Williams and Committee Members,

Hello! My name is Mindi Blokzyl. I am currently a 1st grade teacher in Clearwater, Kansas. I have been teaching for 11 years. Upon reading and researching the new proposed bill I felt obligated to email you to share my opinion. The bill I am writing in opposition of is Bill HB2662 also referred to as the Parent Bill of Rights.

One of things that concern me about the bill is having to have all of the materials submitted by July 1st. If you have spent any time within the classroom you will quickly realize no two classes are the same. The teacher needs to have the ability to be flexible with what and when we teach the materials. The students may be quick to grasp something, but then struggle with something else and need more time to learn it. I do not want to feel locked in a certain time frame caused by this bill. I want to be a good teacher and teach what is needed and when it is needed. Another big concern for me is this really worth the time and money to pursue? At any time a parent can ask me or my school what and why I am what I am and I would love to share it with them. Why take this out of my direct hands and make it part of a bigger system? I believe this will take away the interaction that is desperately needed within the school systems.

As a teacher this is going to take another thing out of my hands and follow along with the bigger political story. I encourage all parents to be involved with the educational process and would love it if they and myself had meaningful conversations. Instead of following the broad lesson plans submitted to the state they could come in and view the actual books and have a meaningful conversation with me. The stress level of our profession has reached new heights these past few years. This has caused many people to either quit teaching or never begin it. We should do what we can to build the relationships rather than cheapen it.

In conclusion, I honestly feel like this bill will not help, parents, teachers, and most importantly the student. We need to work on relationships of trust and open communication within the schools rather than bypass the teachers completely. We want our schools to remain flexible and teach to what the students NEED rather than staying on a prescribed education plan. I request that you oppose HB2662.

Sincerely,

Mindi Blokzyl

Mrs. Mindi Blokzyl
627 Southeast Drive Clearwater, KS 67026
blokzyl@gmail.com