

February 14th, 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,

I am Ryan Hahn, an eighth year secondary education science teacher at West Franklin High School in Pomona, KS. I am writing to confirm the presence of my individual opposition to HB2662.

Education is the foundation of a functional and productive state. Educators agree that our goal is to provide quality education to help children grow. As an educator with a masters degree and two science degrees, I am qualified to work in many other professions that do not involve the same time requirement for the same amount of compensation. A large part of why I chose to be a teacher is because I want to help my students live well and improve the lives of others throughout society. I want their success as much as their parent's do, and I am confident that most teachers who chose this profession agree. Knowing our motivations, here are a few of the problems that I see within the bill.

I completely agree that parents should be involved in their child's education. Parents already have that opportunity and have the chance to see their child's work as needed. Transparency is already present. Giving individual parents the right to determine what is taught in a public school puts a non-professional in the role of determining what a trained professional should do. If multiple parents conflict on what content should be taught, then how should educators respond? Lesson content is a bridge to an improved ability to think. If a parent wants to remove the content, then that ability to think is removed too.

This bill will increase the difficulty of modifying lessons to better educate the students in front of us, and create a significant burden on an already strained profession. What many non-teachers do not realize is that teaching plans change frequently. I start the year with general plans, but units are adjusted based on current events and the availability of resources. Plans are written a week at a time, but I often change them based on my observations. I will even change plans during a class if individuals are struggling. The time is not available for me to submit each change for approval.

I ask that as you consider this and future bills, you keep in mind the purpose of education, why it holds a place in our governmental structure, and why we train professionals to fulfill the promise of educating students in a way that will aid them toward living a better life than they would have without our schools. I trust that if you seek answers to those questions, and keep in mind the logistical implications for school systems and educators, you will find the solutions to any significant problems. Thank you for listening to these concerns.

Sincerely,

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