

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,

I am Sara Devine. I am a current special education teacher who lives and teaches in Junction City, Kansas. I am writing in opposition to HB2662 also referred to as the Parent Bill of Rights.

I am concerned about several aspects of the bill. This bill would continue to strain educators in Kansas by removing flexibility for teachers to make necessary changes to lesson plans in response to student need and performance. This bill comes to a hearing at a time that educators, in Kansas and across the nation, are already struggling and feeling devalued and disrespected and overworked. Parents already have access to this information if they simply ask a district employee for it. This requirements in this bill add unnecessary burden to people already trying to do right by students and who as a result are stretched too thin.

I am a special education teacher. I create lessons on a day-to-day basis based on the needs of my students. I adapt my lessons and strategies during the lesson based on my observations of students during the lesson. If I were required to create lesson plans before I know which students are on my caseload or in my class, it has the same logical consistency that asking a doctor to create a care plan for a patient he or she has never met. To be licensed in special education, I must have a Master of Science. I am required to obtain an advanced degree to meet the deficits of my school's neediest students. I should be afforded with the same respect to my education and judgement as a doctor is to his or hers.

Again, I urge you to oppose HB2662 due to the rigid requirements that would harm students who need flexibility and differentiation on a moment's notice. Additionally, this bill would further demoralize current teachers and deter future educators from entering the field. This would continue to exacerbate the staffing shortage and result in lower educational quality for students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sara Devine". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ms. Sara Devine
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