



February 16, 2022

Senate Education Committee

Written Opponent testimony

Martha Pint, copresidents@lwwk.org

On SB 496: *Establishing the parents' bill of rights for parents of students attending elementary or secondary school in this state.*

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Martha Pint, co-president of the League of Women Voters of Kansas. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on SB 496. The League opposes SB 496 because:

1. Many of the points in this bill are already covered by current law and/or school policies. Of the additional rights mentioned, some are quite vague and left open to personal interpretation.
2. The League of Women Voters supports "equal access to quality education," and this bill does nothing to further this goal. A one-size-fits-all model doesn't work for every community in Kansas.
3. The Kansas Constitution, in article 6 as amended in 1966, states that public schools are to be "maintained, developed, and operated by local elected boards." Some components of this bill would take administration away from local boards and officials. In that sense it does not further the interests of our democratic principles.
4. SB 496 does little to support or improve education in the state of Kansas. During a time when meeting the educational needs of our children should be the impetus for all of our actions, we believe this bill does nothing to further that interest.

Please support the work of our schools to make the decisions appropriate for their own communities and targeted to their students' success and vote no on SB 496. Thank you.

**Martha Pint
Co-President**

League of Women Voters of Kansas

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