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300 SW TENTH AVENUE ■ SUITE 24-E ■ TOPEKA, KS 66612 ■ (785) 296-2321

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Committee on Education
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: February 16, 2022
Subject: SB 496—Parents' Bill of Rights

Senate Bill 496 would establish the parents' bill of rights.

Purpose Statement

Subsection (b) of SB 496 would provide a purpose statement and legislative findings regarding the role of education in a child's development and the role of parents in their child's education.

Parents' Bill of Rights

Subsection (c) of SB 496 would provide that every parent has a right to direct the upbringing, education, care and mental health of the parent's child. Additionally, it would provide that the following rights are reserved to each parent of a child in the state:

- (1) The right to direct the education and care of such child;
- (2) The right to direct the upbringing and moral or religious training of such child;
- (3) The right to request, access and inspect all records maintained by a school relating to such child;
- (4) The right to be informed of and inspect the curriculum, instructional materials and other materials made available or taught to the child in the child's school;
- (5) The right to attend publicly designated meetings of the local school board and the right to question and address school officials through certain communications;
- (6) The right to make healthcare and medical decisions for such child, including the right to make decisions regarding vaccinations and immunizations;
- (7) The right to expect that such child and the child's teacher shall not be compelled to affirm, believe, profess or adhere to any idea that violates the civil rights act of 1964;

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- (8) The right to expect that no course of instruction or unit of study shall direct or otherwise compel the child to personally affirm, adopt or adhere to any idea that violates the civil rights act of 1964;
- (9) The right to expect that the child's school shall not contract with professional development providers that promote racially essentialist doctrines or practices that have been held to violate the civil rights act of 1964;
- (1) The right to expect that each teacher and education of such child will present facts without distortion, bias or personal prejudice;
- (10) The right to expect that each teacher of such child shall work to eliminate coercion that forces teachers to support actions and ideologies that violate individual professional integrity; and
- (11) The right to assert any other inalienable or constitutional right that is reserved to the parent and the child pursuant to state or federal law.

School District Policies

Additionally, subsection (d) of the bill requires the board of education of each school district to adopt policies in consultation with parents, teachers and school administrators that guarantee parents' rights to be involved in their child's education. Such policies would be required to include procedures for a parent to:

- (2) Be informed of and inspect any materials or activities provided in school to the parent's child;
- (3) Inspect and review any educational or health records of the school that pertain to the child;
- (4) Object to any learning material or activity if such material or activity harms the child or impairs the parent's firmly held beliefs, values or principles and withdraw such child from any such activity;
- (5) Challenge material or educational benefit of any book or other publication in the school library which may result in removing such book or publication from the school.

Effective Date

SB 496 would take effect upon publication in the statute book.