

Written Only Testimony in Support of H.B. 2030
Brittany Jones
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Chairwoman Williams and members of the committee, my name is Brittany Jones, and I am the Director for Policy and Engagement for Kansas Family Voice. I thank you for the opportunity to come before you today to express my support for H.B. 2030.

Families decide not to enroll in public schools for multiple reasons. Whatever the reasons, these students deserve the opportunity to participate in athletics. While Tim Tebow is the most well-known student to have utilized a program like H.B. 2030, every student deserves the opportunity to compete in athletics. These students don't have to be the best athlete, nonetheless these students deserve the same opportunities as other students.

Today, thirty states give homeschool students equal access across their state.¹ Kansas is one of the shrinking minority of states around the country that don't ensure that students all over Kansas have the same athletic opportunities.

Kansas' current system creates an unequal playing field and a false choice for many families. This false choice simply punishes homeschooling for not buying into the system of public education, regardless of whether that is the best route for the student. This is just wrong.

Like many of you, I would love to see this bill result in a Tim Tebow-like player getting an opportunity to play high school football or basketball, sign to play for the Wildcats or the Jayhawks, and lead them to a championship. We can hope that happens, but that isn't what this bill is about. It isn't even fully about sports.

This bill is about removing barriers to parents and their child making the best educational decision for their family. Those are the only people that should be involved in that decision, and it is your responsibility as elected officials to cut out as many obstacles that muddy the waters.

I believe this legislative body should promote freedom, empower families, and encourage every student to pursue their best results. That's what this bill is about. It's about choice, preserving options for qualified students, and joining the growing majority of states that are doing the right thing.

I don't want Kansas to be left behind. I don't want to see my state continue to punish those who exercise their school choice rights. I don't want parents and students to continue to be forced into these difficult and gut-wrenching decisions. I humbly ask you to support this legislation today.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

¹ Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming.