

Submitted Testimony House Bill 2221
Kansas House Education Committee
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My name is Ryan Noel and I am an elementary school teacher, coach, and member of the Kansas Association of American Educators, otherwise known as KANAAE. I stand with KANAAE in submitting this testimony in firm support of HB 2221.

- I believe that it is imperative for educators to obtain personal liability insurance coverage. Teachers across Kansas are not aware of the available options and this bill would ensure teachers are given proper access to information.
- It solves the problem of superintendents and other administrators playing awkward roles as middlemen between teachers and employee associations. No administrator should have to fear intimidation for sharing information.
- This bill would empower teachers and other education employees to make financial decisions that best fit their budget and beliefs.

As an educator in Kansas, I first heard about KANAAE through an editorial in my local paper. Their affordable dues, non-partisan ethos, and commitment to professionalism truly resonated with me. I joined immediately. The district I taught in at the time wasn't allowing KANAAE representatives in my school and I know for a fact that my colleagues were not aware of their options. While I was lucky enough to find the organization, teachers across the state are not making fully informed decisions based on current unfair practices.

As an example, when I was fortunate enough to win a classroom grant award from KANAAE, staff members from the organization were barred from presenting me the award in front of my colleagues. I have also experienced intimidation from union leaders who were clearly unhappy that I was spreading information about KANAAE to my interested colleagues.

In my opinion, the impact of this bill would be significant. As a strong supporter of the KANAAE organization, I often speak with teachers that are left uninsured because they don't want to support the partisan politics of the KNEA, but don't know that they have other options. This legislation promotes fairness and transparency with all organizations and leaves teachers in the driver's seat. Once educators are presented with the facts and are made aware of their options, they can choose to spend their hard-earned dollars anyway they see fit.

Furthermore, educators are often provided misinformation or experience intimidation when questioning their options. This legislation frees school districts and administrators by allowing all organizations equal access to teachers. No administration should have to fear retaliation for allowing KANAAE staff to present a scholarship award or attend a new teacher orientation.

In closing, I urge you to vote in favor of HB 2221 and show your support for the empowerment of all of Kansas' teachers. Thank you.

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