



Written opponent testimony before
K-12 Education Budget Committee On HB 2662

By Ashley Razak

February 15, 2022

Madam Chair Kristey Williams, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on HB 2662.

My name is Ashley Razak. I'm a school board member in Bonner Springs/Edwardsville USD 204, and am asking you to please oppose HB 2662 which limits my community's ability to recruit and retain school staff, prevents our school board from making decisions according to the needs of our community, creates unnecessary tension in the partnership between school districts and parents, and diverts resources away from student success.

Here's why:

- The bill diverts resources from student success.
 - Teachers and instructional staff should be focused solely on teaching and learning.
 - The amount of funding, time, and effort school staff will need to allocate for this new statute would be better spent on serving students in the classroom.
- Schools already welcome parental involvement, the transparency is already there.
 - Parents already have ways to monitor their students' work in the classroom through teacher-parent online portals, individual meetings with teachers and numerous other resources.
 - Teachers already have a roadmap for the year based on curriculum standards and benchmarks provided by the district and state.
- School districts are already facing a teacher shortage.
 - Kansas school districts face continuing obstacles to retain staff members, such as pay and workload.
 - The number of teachers entering the profession continues to shrink.



- Many communities do not have accessible or affordable housing to attract staff.
- Small and rural school districts already struggle to attract staff for their communities.
- A continually shrinking workforce poses an added challenge to an existing concern.
- Our local board should be able to make the decisions best for our students and community.
 - School board members are elected locally to make the best decisions for their communities.
 - A one-size-fits-all model does not work for every community.

I believe the best path to student success is a strong partnership between schools and parents. We need a partner in the Legislature so that local boards can perform their constitutional duty to maintain, develop and operate local schools. The Kansas Legislature and local Kansas boards should be in harmony so that we can work together to help all Kansas children succeed.

Please support our ability to do this in the way that best meets the needs of our community and what is best for our students by **opposing HB 2662**.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ashley Razak".

Ashley Razak
USD 204 Board of Education