

Oral Opponent Testimony before the House Education Committee
To
HB 2236 Establishing parents' rights to direct the education of their children

Presented to the House Committee on Education
Wednesday, February 8, 2023
1:30 P.M. Room 218-N
By Jim Karleskint, United School Administrators of Kansas

Chairman Thomas, Member of the House Education Committee

I appreciate the opportunity to speak with the committee today. The United School Administrators of Kansas supports parents in their working to direct the education of their children. It is our desire to work with parents in this endeavor. However, we feel HB 2236 will not accomplish the intent of doing what is best for students.

It is the desire of members of the United School Administrators to work with parents, teachers, and other advocates of students to provide the best possible education for the children of Kansas. We are proud of the strong tradition of cooperation between all involved in providing the best possible education for children. There are currently provisions in board policies and practices that allow for parents to deal with issues that may occur when parents feel their wishes or rights are not being heard or respected.

Secondary schools in Kansas follow the KSHSAA rules regarding eligibility, many schools have additional eligibility requirements above the activities associations guidelines. School administrators have shared with me that under this bill a parent could opt a student out of a core class or assignment under the claim of "harm". The student would then be allowed to participate because "no student's academic records shall be adversely affected". It is their fear that this clause will be taken advantage of by some students and parents.

United School Administrators of Kansas members are eager to work with parents to help students in their education. However, we feel HB 2236 will not be the correct path to supporting parents and students. For this reason, we are opposed to HB 2236.

Respectfully,

Jim Karleskint
United School Administrators of Kansas