

Maize Virtual Preparatory School

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HB 2506 Authorizing students enrolled in virtual schools to participate in activities that are regulated by the Kansas high school activities association at such student's resident school district without a minimum enrollment requirement in such resident school district.

Proponent

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My name is Lori Andersen; I am the Assistant Principal of Maize Virtual Preparatory School. I am writing today in support of HB 2506. This is an encouraging step in ensuring all public school students in the state of Kansas have the opportunity to participate in KSHSAA sponsored activities.

I have been a teacher and now an administrator in the public virtual school system in Kansas since 2010. Before joining a virtual school team, I had the privilege of teaching in a brick and mortar school in Olathe, KS for 5 years. In all of my experiences, I have worked with students who are finding their love of learning as well as taking advantage of the opportunities to grow and develop outside of their academic endeavors.

The struggle I have seen during my time in virtual education is watching families weigh their options, or lack of options, for their children to participate in organized sports, theater, debate, music, etc. Many of our students' only option would be to join their local school district for the opportunity to participate. They have had to decide to forgo the opportunity or enroll with their local school and leave their virtual setting.

It is unfortunate to have to be in that position as a public school student. The virtual environment is truly the better academic option for some students. Allowing all public school students the opportunity to participate in KSHSAA activities is invaluable. Thank you for your consideration of my support of HB 2506.

Lori Andersen