

Subject: Testimony Against HB2612 - Protection of State Board of Education's Role in School Accreditation

Chairperson Williams and the K-12 committee,

Thank you for taking time to listen to my written testimony on HB2612. As an education consultant deeply engaged in assisting schools throughout Kansas in their accreditation process, I write to express my strong opposition to HB2612. This proposed legislation, in seeking to alter the oversight of school accreditation, threatens to undermine the essential role of the State Board of Education and jeopardize the integrity of our educational system.

School accreditation is not merely a bureaucratic exercise or a matter of administrative procedure. It is a fundamental aspect of ensuring that our schools meet the highest standards of quality and accountability, thereby safeguarding the educational well-being of our students. Accreditation processes are designed to uphold state laws and regulations, ensuring that schools adhere to prescribed standards and provide the best possible learning environment for every child.

The State Board of Education is entrusted with the responsibility of overseeing accreditation, backed by its expertise, experience, and resources. The board is uniquely positioned to understand the diverse needs of schools and districts across Kansas and to provide tailored guidance and support where necessary. This holistic approach, grounded in collaboration and expertise, is essential for fostering continuous improvement and ensuring equitable educational opportunities for all students.

HB2612 threatens to disrupt this vital framework by potentially transferring accreditation authority away from the State Board of Education. Such a move risks politicizing the accreditation process and subjecting it to arbitrary interpretations of the law, rather than informed decision-making based on educational best practices. Accreditation should never be wielded as a punitive tool or subjected to the whims of shifting political agendas.

I implore you to consider the far-reaching implications of HB2612 and to uphold the autonomy and authority of the State Board of Education in matters of school accreditation. Let us preserve the integrity of our educational system by entrusting accreditation to those with the requisite expertise, understanding, and commitment to student success.

Thank you for your attention to this crucial matter.

Sincerely,

Katie McDonald  
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