

Jonathan Smith

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HB 2612 (School District compliance and accreditation)

**OPPOSITION** Testimony

Hearing Date February 5th, 2024

Chair Kristey Williams and committee persons,

This is the type of legislation that forces schools, who are already understaffed, overburdened, underpaid, and overworked, to additionally follow every mention of every rule at the state level with fear of losing accreditation.

There are already processes in place that can and do handle this process in a fair and measured way. Passing this bill would force schools to lose accreditation in a process that would be *much* faster than the process would be to gain it back.

This would adversely affect the school district, the schools, the teachers, the administration, and most importantly the future of the students, if they are unable to take their education to a college of their choosing.

There is also a very notable lack of wording in the bill to address **private** schools. This would make this legislation one-sided in application toward the already financially burdened public schools that the legislature refuses to fund adequately.

Instead of this bill, why don't you fulfill your prior obligations of fully funding the special education programs that you have been out of compliance with since 2012.

Finally, this bill was set for a hearing with such a small window, that I had to leave work early just to be able to fill out this testimony in time. This is incredibly irresponsible as a committee, and I expect better transparency moving forward.

Please vote in **OPPOSITION** to HB 2612.

Thank You,

Jonathan Smith