



Unified School District 493

Board of Education Office

House Committee on K-12 Education Budget
February 5, 2024
House Bill 2612

Chairperson Williams and members of the Committee,

Thank you for taking time to consider my written testimony on HB2612. While I understand the importance of upholding laws and maintaining educational standards, I firmly believe that this approach is flawed and warrants reconsideration. There are several key reasons why this course of action is detrimental and should be reevaluated.

Firstly, it is essential to acknowledge that the legislative body itself is not immune to violating laws. By stripping a school of its accreditation based on the violation of a law, it creates a double standard and undermines the credibility of the legislative body. It is crucial to ensure that all stakeholders are held to the same standards and are subject to the same consequences for non-compliance.

Secondly, the language of the law in question may be too broad and lack specificity. This broadness increases the likelihood of unintentional violations, leaving schools vulnerable to punitive measures without even being aware of their transgressions. It is important to create legislation that is clear, concise, and provides schools with a reasonable understanding of what is expected of them. This will promote a fair and just system where schools have the opportunity to rectify any unintended violations.

Lastly, the responsibility of accrediting schools should lie with the Kansas State Department of Education, rather than the legislative body. Accreditation is a complex process that requires expertise and in-depth knowledge of the education system. The State Department of Education is better equipped to evaluate schools based on a comprehensive set of criteria and make informed decisions regarding their accreditation status. By entrusting this responsibility to the appropriate educational authorities, we ensure a more streamlined and effective accreditation process.

In summary, taking away a school's accreditation based solely on the violation of a law is a flawed approach that needs reconsideration. The legislative body should ensure that it holds itself to the same standards it expects from schools, and the language of the law should be precise and specific to prevent unintended violations. Moreover, it is the responsibility of the Kansas State Department of Education, as the educational experts, to accredit schools and make informed decisions regarding their accreditation status. By addressing these concerns, we can establish a fair and just system that promotes educational excellence while also upholding the principles of justice and accountability.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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