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Written only testimony **in opposition** to House Bill 2612  
House K-12 Education Budget Committee Hearing on February 5, 2024

Honorable Chair Williams and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to HB 2612.

The proposed bill would require school districts to comply with all state laws, rules, and regulations to be accredited; requiring school districts to notify parents in writing if the school district is not accredited; requiring the state board to establish a process to challenge a determination of school district compliance with state laws and rules and regulations.

This bill poses a significant threat to the educational landscape in our state. While I understand the importance of maintaining standards in education, I am concerned that HB 2612 takes an overly punitive approach by threatening to pull accreditation from any school that fails to comply with every state rule and regulation. It is essential to acknowledge that, despite our best efforts, no educational institution is immune to occasional lapses in compliance.

Education is a dynamic and complex field, and schools must navigate a myriad of regulations to provide the best possible learning environment for our students. Imposing such severe consequences for minor infractions is impractical and counterproductive to the overall goal of fostering a robust and innovative education system.

I want to highlight that the threat of losing accreditation could disproportionately impact schools that serve vulnerable populations or those facing resource constraints. Rather than encouraging continuous improvement and collaboration, this bill instills fear and diverts valuable resources toward compliance checks rather than educational enrichment.

Instead of an all-or-nothing approach, we should work towards a more nuanced system that addresses compliance issues through collaboration between schools and regulatory bodies. This could involve regular audits, targeted support for schools in need, and a focus on fostering a culture of compliance rather than punitive measures.

I urge you to reconsider the potential consequences of HB 2612 and its impact on the educational landscape in Kansas. Collaborative dialogue and thoughtful consideration of alternative solutions will undoubtedly lead to a more effective and fair approach to improving academic standards.

Thank you for your time and consideration.