

HB 2166 Oral Proponent Testimony

February 12, 2019

Representative Renee Erickson

As a former teacher who taught financial literacy to high school students, I have seen firsthand the necessity for consistent, comprehensive financial education for all students. To say that we are preparing students to be successful in college or career without **ensuring** they have a basic understanding and level of money management skills is ignoring research and evidence-based studies that clearly show the short and long-term impact on students.

I believe everyone here agrees that it is a good idea for students to have money management skills. The disagreement stems from whether it's the legislature's job to make financial literacy mandatory. My question is why wouldn't we want to **make sure** every graduate has this essential skill for success going forward? As we know all too well, there is much interpretation of the Kansas Constitution regarding who has certain rights and responsibilities when it comes to education. We all want our students to be successful. Let's give them the financial skills to do so!