

TESTIMONY OF MARK D. ELLIS
Proponent for HB 2199 February 2015

Rep. Highland & HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

My name is Mark D. Ellis and I am native of Kansas. I am honored to have the privilege to submit my Testimony in support of **HB 2199**.

As a concerned parent I fully agree with this proposed legislation.

Last year on January 9th 2014 my then 13 year old daughter who was an eighth grade student at Hocker Grove Middle School in Shawnee, KS which a part of the Shawnee Mission School district came home and showed my wife and I a photo of a “sexual feelings” poster that she had taken at her school. This oversized “sexual feelings” poster was hanging on the door of her science classroom.

The Poster was entitled “**How Do People Express Their Sexual Feelings**”. There were sexual acts listed on this poster including **Anal Sex, Oral Sex, Masturbation, Touching Each Others Genitals, Grinding, Vaginal Sex, Sexual Fantasy** and other practices. My first inclination was that this was a prank from another student, but even so I felt it my obligation to bring this poster to the attention of the Principal of Hocker Grove Middle School.

I found out from the Principal that this was **Not** a prank from another student. A spokesperson for the school district reenforced that it was a nationally approved curriculum and approved by the district. I was shocked to say the least! I spoke with two more people who handled the curriculum, they too assured me that the poster had been nationally and locally approved as part of a new national “abstinence” program. I decided that I needed to take further action to see that this type of offensive and objectionable curriculum be removed from our schools permanently. To call the poster a lesson in “abstinence education” is so ludicrous, that if it didn’t make me so angry it would be laughable.

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Education Committee.

I firmly believe that at any age, promoting this kind of highly erotic, lewd and sexualized material has no place in our K-12 public schools. At this age children are at their most vulnerable point in life. It is harmful to subject them to and reenforce such practices as "abstinence", when in truth much of it's content is pornographic in nature.

I am in agreement with HB2199 and feel this would protect our children in the school setting by only letting children participate in sexually oriented lessons once the responsible parent / legal guardian has "Opted In" to these types of lessons.

Respectfully;

Mark D. Ellis

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