

**Testimony on HB 2292**  
**before the**  
**House Education Committee**  
**submitted by**

**Dr. George Griffith, Superintendent, Trego County U.S.D. #208**

Chairman Highland and members of the House Education Committee, I would like to thank you all for the opportunity for me to share testimony in opposition to HB 2292 based on the following points:

- 1. HB 2292 takes away local control and local choices made by locally elected boards of education based on feedback from local site-councils, local teachers, and local educational leaders. Specifically:**
  - a. HB 2292, New Section 3b voids the decisions made by locally elected board members and district leaders including site council members. This is a direct assault on the local control provided in Article 6 §5 of the Kansas State Constitution by taking away the local choice already made to select the standards and curriculum local stakeholders felt was best for the local children.
  - b. HB 2292 also prevents districts from choosing the standards and curriculum that align with the Rose Capacities and what many members of the Kansas School Superintendents Association (KSSA) feel is the best for children (data collected from members of KSSA during committee work on the KSSA Legislative Positions).
- 2. HB 2292 takes away the authority of the KSBE, an elected board for the purpose and has the authority provided in Article 6, § 2(a) of the Kansas State Constitution, for the "general supervision of public education, educational institutions and all the educational interests of the state." Specifically:**
  - a. The majority of Kansans showed support for board members who supported the adoption of the Common Core State Standards (a.k.a Kansas College and Career Ready Standards [KCCRS]) by re-electing them in November of 2014 and the new board member that was elected openly supported the KCCRS.
  - b. Not only would HB 2292 go against the will of the electorate who put these board members in office, it would also violate the oath legislators made to support the Constitution of the state of Kansas.
- 3. There is currently no fiscal note related to this bill which is a considerable oversight. HB 2292 will ultimately result in throwing out hundreds of million dollars already spent:**
  - a. HB 2292 will stop programs already paid for at both the state and local level and all the money spent on education the last five years on these quality standards will be lost for no good reason.
  - b. HB 2292 will cost millions of dollars at the state and local levels to revamp standards and assessments and attempt to buy materials that will be difficult to find. This additional spending is counterintuitive when the state is looking for efficiency in school spending.

I would like to sum up my opposition to HB 2292 with a quote. "Local school board members, local administrators, local teachers, and local parents know what is best for children in their community. It is important they be given the flexibility they need to help every child succeed," Governor Sam Brownback from his 2014 re-election website. I hope we can agree with this statement and realize that HB 2292 would take away this flexibility and local school choice. Thanks again for the opportunity to share my opposition to HB 2292 and please do not pass this out of committee for the sake of our children and their future.

Respectfully,



Dr. George Griffith, Superintendent at Trego County USD No. 208