

To Mr.Chairman, and members of the House Education Committee,

My name is James Wiens, I am writing this testimony on behalf of myself, a school board vice-president of Goessel school district, US 411. I am an opponent of House Bill 2345 which disqualifies a person with a "conflict of interest" from serving on a school board. This bill creates many concerns including these points:

I, as a school board member for the past 6 years, would personally be disqualified to continue my service, as I am also a math teacher in a nearby district. In fact of the 7 people currently serving on our board, at least 4 of them would be disqualified Not only is this NOT a conflict of interest, it is an asset to have knowledge of best educational practices and experiences. It would be a tragedy if folks like us were barred from serving in those capacities.

People with educational ties are the exact people that often care most for schools and know how to work to keep them successful.

If we eliminate a great many people from the pool of qualified candidates, who will be left to run. If there are roughly 37,000 teachers in Kansas. Potentially hundreds of thousands of kansans would be disqualified from service

If voters think there is a conflict of interest, they should be able to determine that for themselves at the local level.

Our school district is one out of over 190 districts in the State that have approved a resolution in opposition of this bill

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share this testimony.

James Wiens