

Testimony before the House Judiciary Committee

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Good Morning. Thank you for allowing me to address you today. My name is Nancy McFarlin. I serve as the District Librarian in USD 352 Goodland, KS and also represent the Kansas Association of School Librarians as Past President and Governmental Affairs Chair. I am speaking today in opposition to SB56.

The Kansas Association of School Librarians strongly oppose Senate Bill 56 because it removes local control from school districts to set curriculum and to handle their own issues regarding challenges. School districts already have challenged materials policies/procedures in their board policy manuals that address curriculum and the school library. Any concerns are handled efficiently at the local level.

Isolated incidents in one district should not be cause for excessive government overreach. Dedicated professional educators should not be faced with the fear of harassment, prosecution and imprisonment. Removing this affirmative defense will have a chilling effect on an educator's and their district's independence to choose materials that fit a curricular need.

I request that the committee oppose this bill for the aforementioned reasons.