



February 23, 2015

Testimony in Support of SB 176

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee:

On behalf of Americans for Prosperity, thank you for this opportunity to voice our support of SB 176. For too long Kansas school districts and Kansas Board of Education has been hamstrung by inflexible negotiation requirements. This has limited flexibility of local districts to be innovative and responsive to the changing demands of today's educational environment.

Current Kansas law requires two dozen items to be included in negotiations between School Districts and profession employee representatives. This requirement includes items such as grievance procedures, professional employee evaluation procedures and the wear of apparel. Kansas law requires that *"each of the foregoing being a term and condition of professional service, regardless of its impact on the employee or on the operation of the educational system."*

The operation of the educational system and wellbeing of employees should be paramount in any professional contract negotiation.

KSA 2-5413 requires that School Districts and colleges include negotiation of absences for organizational purposes and instructional programs for representation of bargaining units. The same statute protects the turf of the recognized professional by mandating that similar benefits not be grated to other professional employee organizations.

SB 176 takes a key step in returning authority over the policies and procedures of school districts to local control of elected school boards and administrators. It removes state mandates for terms of negotiations beyond salaries and wages.

AFP-Kansas supports SB 176 to give local school districts greater control over their own policies and procedures, and eliminate state mandated bargaining requirements.

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