

Chairperson Williams and members of the K-12 committee,

Thank you for asking for written testimony for HB 2612. I am wanting to clear up any confusion of districts not following the laws in Kansas in our district. We spend a great deal of time in our district and in our written policies to make sure we are following the law of Kansas. I find it offensive that the chair would think to make public schools sound like they would break the laws of Kansas. We work very hard to follow all laws.

The State Board of Education spends a great deal of time trying to make sure our schools are continually getting better for our changing world. It is their established duty by the laws of Kansas to make sure schools are good enough to be accredited and your committee should be proud of the job the State Board of Education is doing to help school in Kansas get better every day. Kansas has a great education system that you should be proud of, as well. Schools are required to follow state laws and State Board of Education regulations. If schools don't show growth or meet the expectations, districts are provided the opportunity to review the process while KSDE provides guidance and support. Accreditation affects every student in a school district and should not be used as a punitive punishment based on the interpretation of a law. Accreditation should remain in the hands of the department who have the staff, skills, understanding, and experience working with schools and school districts; the resources to support all schools.

If we are talking about following the laws of Kansas, schools are doing an excellent job of fulfilling your wishes, but it took multiple lawsuits before the legislature fully funded general education which is in the constitution of Kansas. You are not being an example of what you want of the public schools. We only ask you to follow the laws that your institution made into law, fully fund public education and quit squabbling over your personal agendas. WE have students to educate and companies that are waiting for our students. We need you to follow the laws you made. Don't get schools caught up in the middle of interpreting the laws and divert them from their role of educating the students.

In summary, the schools are governed by the State School Board and LOCALLY elected boards of education. Please allow our local boards to monitor educators and the daily work they perform. If they are intentionally breaking the law, I'm sure our boards can handle the issue.

Sue Bolley