

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL
TOPEKA, KS 66612
(785) 296-7673
kirk.haskins@house.ks.gov



1035 SW ASHWORTH ROAD
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66604
(785) 250-5634
haskinsforkansas@gmail.com

DR. KIRK HASKINS
53RD DISTRICT

House Committee on K-12 Education Budget

RE: Opposition - HOUSE BILL No. 2612

I am submitting this written testimony, on behalf of my constituents, to express my deep concerns regarding House Bill 2612. While the intention behind this amendment is to ensure that school districts adhere to state laws and regulations, I firmly stand in opposition for it poses significant harm and challenges to the Kansas Public Education System. This stance is based on 25 years of working and teaching at all levels of the Kansas education system – both public and private.

HB 2612 places an undue burden on school districts, potentially jeopardizing their accreditation status based on compliance with a multitude of laws and regulations. The complexity and ever-changing nature of these legal frameworks will lead to inadvertent violations, unfairly penalizing school districts for minor infractions. This rigid approach fails to consider the nuanced challenges faced by educational institutions and will hinder their ability to provide quality education to our children.

Furthermore, the requirement for school districts to notify parents in writing about their loss of accreditation adds an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy. While transparency is crucial, this provision creates unwarranted panic among parents, leading to a decline in enrollment and disrupting the learning environment for students. We should aim for a balanced approach that ensures accountability without causing unnecessary alarm.

Excluding private schools and homeschools from the scope of House Bill 2612 inadvertently creates a two-tiered system that will inflict harm on our educational landscape. This omission inadvertently contributes to a disparity in standards and accountability, potentially impacting the choices available to parents and students. A comprehensive approach that considers all types of educational institutions is essential to ensure a fair and equitable evaluation of our state's entire education system.

Lastly, HB 2612 allows individuals to challenge determinations of school district compliance or noncompliance with state laws raising questions about the potential for abuse. This process could be exploited for personal or political motives, leading to unwarranted disruptions in our education system. We must carefully consider the potential consequences and safeguards to prevent misuse of this provision.

In conclusion, while I share the goal of ensuring that our Kansas schools comply with state laws and regulations, I believe HB 2612 in its current form is not the solution. We must strive for a more balanced and nuanced approach that considers the diverse challenges faced by our school districts, fosters collaboration, and promotes a fair and effective accreditation system for the benefit of our students and the future of Kansas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirk R. Haskins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line at the end.

Dr. Kirk R. Haskins
Representative
House District 53 - Topeka