

**Missy Taylor, Vice President  
Kansas Families for Education  
House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development  
March 6 2013**

**Mr. Chairman, members of the committee thank you for the opportunity to come before you today.** I am Missy Taylor and I appear before you on behalf of Kansas Families for Education to oppose HB2027.

First, good laws are only created when it is done openly and when everyone has a seat at the table. It's disappointing that we are having a hearing after a bill has passed out of committee. It's certainly not an example of good government. Just as teachers must set an example for students, so must our elected officials.

As a retired teacher, and a retired KNEA member, I first want to stress that the children in our classrooms have always been our first priority each and every day. When teachers ask to have a voice in their professional lives it's not to be selfish or greedy; it's to insure that they are equipped to best teach children, advocate on their behalf, and insure that they can provide what students need to be successful. For example, planning and preparation time is invaluable to insuring that teachers are able to complete what must be done for children in the short amount of time they have them each day. Lessons don't happen by circumstance, they are created during planning periods. Removing that from collective bargaining could be to the detriment of our students.

HB2027 would effectively negate all current contracts upon its passage. I would point out that even when we hold elections and the voters cast ballots that change who will represent them, it allows time for current office holders to complete their terms. Elections are in a sense a contract with the voters. We would hope you would offer the same courtesy to those that teach our children.

The best classrooms are those with teachers who feel valued and appreciated. This legislation does little for the morale of our teachers. We contend that children deserve the very best their teachers have to offer, but we acknowledge that teachers' best comes from having a voice in their professional lives. A voice, that isn't stifled by politics.

We respectfully ask for this committee to reconsider HB2027 and then ask for you to vote no to advancing this bill to the full House for a vote.

Thank you for your consideration and your time.

House Commerce & Economic  
Development Committee  
Date: 3.6.13  
Attachment #: 9