

House Bill 2221 Submitted Testimony
Kansas House Education Committee

From: Claudia Boyles, Secondary Science Educator

My name is Claudia Boyles and I am a Secondary Science Educator in Holcomb Kansas, USD 363 and I am submitting this testimony in-support of HB 2221.

Upon reading this legislation, I was pleased to see that this bill would allow all teachers associations the right to have access to my school and all other schools in the state. Last fall, as a member of the KNEA, I received a mailing that stated what political candidate I should vote for. I was very displeased by what I saw and I realized that the dues I was paying towards KNEA were funding this specific agenda that I personally did not support. At the time, I had no idea I had a choice in obtaining professional liability insurance.

I just happened to meet the state director of KANAAE when he was introduced to me by a friend at a triathlon event I was competing in on a Saturday last fall. I did not realize that there was another organization that could give me the same legal advice and liability protection for a much more affordable price and with a non-political agenda.

This bill would allow other educators around the state the opportunity to hear about their options as well. I am excited to have found KANAAE and now don't have to pay for political activity that I am not aware of or do not support. It also empowers me and other education employees to make financial decisions that best fit our budget and beliefs. As a member of KANAAE, I am afforded peace of mind knowing my dues money will not be going to political activity.

When this bill passes, it would allow teachers like me the ability to consider all options available. I have spoken with many of my colleagues and they are under the impression that there is only one professional organization that exists for providing them with legal and liability protection.

In closing, I urge you to vote in favor of HB 2221. I hope you will show your support for the educators in Kansas who may not know there are other professional organization available allow them the opportunity to hear of their options. All teachers deserve to make informed choices.

Sincerely,
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