

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ron Highland at 1:30pm on Tuesday, February 17, 2015, 112-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Sue Boldra – Excused

Committee staff present:

Sharon Wenger, Legislative Research Department

Sue Mollenkamp, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Tamera Lawrence, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Edward Penner, Legislative Research Department

Nick Myers, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Senator Mary Pilcher-Cook

Phillip Cosby, American Family Action of Kansas and Missouri

Phillis Setchell, concerned citizen

Courtney Rankin, concerned citizen

Rosy Schmidt, concerned citizen

Shirley Koehn, concerned citizen

Mark Ellis, concerned citizen

Tom Krebs, Kansas Association of School Boards

Reverend Sarah Marsh, Tecumseh United Methodist Church, Tecumseh, Kansas

Reverend Eleanor McCormick, Plymouth Congregational Church, Lawrence, Kansas

Rabbi Rebecca Reice, Congregation Beth Torah, Overland Park, Kansas

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Hearing on: HB2199 — School districts; human sexuality education; policies and procedures.

Chairman Highland opened the hearing on **HB2199** and asked conferees to limit their testimony to three minutes.

Tamera Lawrence gave an overview of **HB2199** and answered questions from the committee.

Senator Mary Pilcher-Cook supported **HB2199** emphasizing the need for parents to have oversight for the sexuality education of their children. Senator Pilcher-Cook answered questions from committee members. ([Attachment 1](#))

Phillip Cosby spoke in favor of **HB2199** recognizing the culture is pressing us in the arena of sexuality and stressing the need for parents to have oversight regarding the instruction their children receive. Mr. Cosby answered questions from the committee. ([Attachment 2](#)) ([Attachment 3](#))

Phillis Setchell stressed the importance of parental permission in all areas of a child's education and

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Education at 1:30pm on Tuesday, February 17, 2015, 112-N of the Capitol.

specifically in the area of sexuality. She asked members to vote in favor of **HB2199**. ([Attachment 4](#))

Courtney Rankin spoke as a teacher and mother in favor of **HB2199** referring to articles relating to the parent's role in sexuality education and stating her belief that oversight belongs with the parents. Ms. Rankin answered questions from the committee. ([Attachment 5](#))

Rosy Schmidt supports the 'opt in' requirement of **HB2199** stating her belief that it will help parents be more aware of the sexuality education being presented in their child's school and referring to Kansas statutes covering the parental rights act. Ms. Schmidt answered questions from the committee. ([Attachment 6](#))

Shirley Koehn noted her testimony contains an erroneous statement that she encouraged members to vote against **HB2199** and made clear this is not her stance. She supports **HB2199** and voiced her concerns about school-required sexually-related materials which are not age-appropriate. ([Attachment 7](#))

Mark Ellis stated his support for **HB2199** recounting the evasive treatment he received from school administrators when he inquired about the curriculum being used for sexuality education in his daughter's school. He believes **HB2199** will help parents be more involved in the choice of how and when their children receive sexuality education. ([Attachment 8](#))

Written testimony supporting **HB2199** was submitted by:

Andrew Kneisler, Blue Valley Schools parent ([Attachment 9](#))

Kyle and Denise Mead, concerned citizens ([Attachment 10](#))

Lisa Huesers, concerned citizen ([Attachment 11](#))

Laura Weinberg, concerned citizen ([Attachment 12](#))

Kathy Martin, former member Kansas State Board of Education ([Attachment 13](#))

Larry and Christine Tawney, concerned citizens ([Attachment 14](#)) ([Attachment 15](#))

Michael Schuttloffel, Executive Director, Kansas Catholic Conference ([Attachment 16](#))

Tom Krebs opposed **HB2199**, stating his belief that it is best for the decision regarding an 'opt in' policy be left to the local school district. Mr. Krebs answered questions from committee members. ([Attachment 17](#))

Reverend Sarah Marsh spoke against **HB2199** stating she believes the bill is unnecessary because parents currently have the right to 'opt out' of school sexuality courses. She expressed her concern that students may be unable to get parental consent for various reasons. Reverend Marsh answered questions from the committee. ([Attachment 18](#))

Reverend Eleanor McCormick opposed **HB2199** pointing out the bill deals with one matter, 'opt in' or

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Education at 1:30pm on Tuesday, February 17, 2015, 112-N of the Capitol.

'opt out'. She believes the 'opt in' requirement of **HB2199** would not provide what is needed for students who are in vulnerable family situations. Reverend McCormick answered questions from committee members. ([Attachment 19](#))

Rabbi Rebecca Reice spoke from the Jewish tradition emphasizing the need for a partnership with public school systems to educate children about the details of bodily functions that are not discussed openly in other places. She encouraged opposition to **HB2199**. Rabbi Reice answered questions from the committee. ([Attachment 20](#))

Written testimony opposing **HB2199** was submitted by:

Brandi Fisher, Executive director, MainStream Coalition and Education Foundation ([Attachment 21](#))

Rabbi Debbie Stiel, Temple Beth Sholom, Topeka, Kansas ([Attachment 22](#))

Elise Higgins, Planned Parenthood Advocate of Kansas and Mid-Missouri ([Attachment 23](#))

Reverend Kent little, College hill United Methodist Church, Wichita, Kansas ([Attachment 24](#))

Reverend Karen Robu, Associate Minister, Plymouth Congregational Church, Wichita, Kansas ([Attachment 25](#))

Mark Desetti, Kansas National Education Association ([Attachment 26](#))

Micah Kubic, Executive Director, American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas ([Attachment 27](#))

Reverend Robin McGonigle, University Congregational Church, Wichita, Kansas ([Attachment 28](#))

rabbi Rick Shapiro, Congregation Beth Torah, Overland Park, Kansas ([Attachment 29](#))

Sarah Rust-Martin, Kansas Coalition against Sexual and Domestic Violence ([Attachment 30](#))

The Chairman closed the hearing on **HB2199**.

Hearing on: HB2262 — Providing a compliance deadline and penalties for non-compliance with the student data privacy act.

Due to lack of time, the Chairman announced the hearing on **HB2262** will take place at a later date.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

The House Education will meet next on Thursday, February 19, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 112-N of the Capitol.