

To: sue.mollenkamp@house.ks.gov
Subject: Proponent Oral Testimony HB 2199

The Honorable Ron Highland, Chair House Education Committee :

My name is Rosy Schmidt, and I am a mom in absolute favor of HB 2199, the bill that requires parents to opt-in to sex education in Kansas schools. Parents *must* opt-in to curriculum that involves values, attitudes and behaviors. As parents, *we* have the sole right and responsibility in raising and educating our children, according to *our* values. This type of instruction is solely the role of the parent or guardian, and if some parents wish to turn this obligation over to the schools, that is *their* decision. But it also *our* right, as parents, to know about these programs, and if there is no opt-in, it is very difficult to know these programs even exist.

The U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly recognized that the liberty clause in the 14th Amendment guarantees the fundamental right of parents to direct the education and upbringing of their children. Parents have the fundamental right to make all decisions regarding their children, including discipline, medical decisions, and directing the education and religious training of their children.

Kansas formally passed a parental rights act:

K.S.A. & 38-141. (b) It shall be the public policy of this state that parents shall retain the fundamental right to exercise primary control over the care and upbringing of their children in their charge. It is further the public policy of this state that children shall have the right to protection from abuse and neglect.

(d) Any parent may maintain a cause of action in state court or in any court of competent jurisdiction for claims arising under the principles established in subsection (b). Any person authorized by law to act on behalf of a child may maintain a cause of action in the name of such child in any court of competent jurisdiction arising under the principles established in subsection (b).

In the case of human sexuality education, the age appropriateness of certain topics is dependent on the circumstances of the individual child. The appropriateness of other topics may be deemed objectionable altogether by some parents. This is not something schools are set up to effectively administer. In addition, as a Registered Nurse, I am very concerned about the implications of a student who may be a victim of sexual abuse, who finds herself in an agonizing situation in school when this topic is studied or when she may come to an awful realization about her abuser.

Please do the right thing and support HB 2199. Support this bill and any bill that helps to restore parental rights in Kansas.

Thank you for your consideration this afternoon.

Rosy Schmidt