

February 19, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent and educator who has chosen to opt out my own children of testing on the state level. I am asking you to support HB2292 as I believe my child has become a number in a data pool that often portrays invalid and unreliable information. Our children deserve to be more than a data collection system which is now threatening to harm the very people who are trying to help them. I personally, cannot think of a more ludicrous scenario.

When I consider the time taken from teachers and children in the name of the state test, I become frustrated. Time needed for valuable instruction is often given to preparation for the state test; therefore causing schools to lose focus on individual needs of each student. I send my children to public schools in hopes they receive a well rounded education that prepares them to go into the world and take their place as responsible citizens. As I ponder how the state test is preparing them for the world or helping their teachers, I am at a loss to find any reasonable conclusion.

My children have been blessed to find themselves amidst some of the best educators. This fact does not change regardless of the effort or results my child gets on the state test. It breaks my heart to think my child does not have to take responsibility for their performance. Therefore, I opt my child from this situation. If our educational system wants to promote responsible, caring, productive citizens who make good decisions then I strongly believe the system itself should practice what it is expecting. The current testing situation is not meeting these criteria. Again, I encourage you to support HB2292.

D. M. Priest

Dodge City, Kansas