

March 2, 2015
House Committee on Education
Attn: Committee Members
Testimony in opposition to HB 2345

As a member of the Hutchinson USD 308 board of education for the past four and a half years, I have had the privilege to serve with 8 of the most conscientious people I have ever met. They care about public education in Kansas as much as anyone could and put in the required amount of time to understand the complex issues facing education today.

The legislation proposed in HB 2345 is an attack on those who desire to make public education in Kansas the best it can be. School boards need people who realize the importance of public education to the future of Kansas. By removing the rights of possible candidates to run for seats on these boards because of positions held by family members or the positions these candidates hold in government, the state will significantly decrease the number of valuable, qualified candidates for office. This also takes away local voters' control to choose who they think will represent them the best.

As it stands, board members follow standards of conduct and conflict of interest rules that keep all actions of boards open to public scrutiny. Local voters are perfectly capable of discerning a conflict of interest and between the voters and other members of school boards, misconduct by a board member is not tolerated. A law to keep someone from running is neither necessary nor desired.

For these reasons, please oppose HB 2345.

Submitted by: Mary Lynn Baker
Member Hutchinson USD 308 school board.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Lynn Baker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" and last name "Baker" being the most legible parts.