

Date: March 3, 2015

House Committee on Education

Attn: Representative Ron Highland and Committee Members

Testimony in opposition of HB 2345

My name is Tad Dower and I am serving my first term as a board member for USD 308 - Hutchinson.

HB 2345 would prohibit me and two fellow board members from serving on the school board. In my personal situation my wife has been employed for many years as an administrative aide at Hutchinson High School. This fact was well known at the time that I ran for the school board. I have not received any concerns from any school district patron that my spouse's employment has in anyway impacted my ability to serve as a board member. Board members presently recuse themselves if an issue arises where a conflict exists whether due to a family or business relationship. This practice would seem to more than adequately address the concerns of HB 2345.

In recent years our district has enjoyed a sufficient number of candidates to provide voters options. We have not always been so fortunate. I believe that HB 2345 will only serve to exacerbate the problem many districts have in finding candidates to run for the school board. If the existence of one of the relationships identified in HB 2345 exists then that fact can be made known to the voters who will decide whether or not that relationship is such that a person should not be elected to the school board.

I frequently read how state government wants to promote local control of education. HB 2345 seems to want to remove local control by dictating who can and cannot serve on the school board. If the potential areas of concerns identified in HB 2345 are concerning enough to school district patrons then that concern will be reflected in how those patrons vote.

I urge the committee to oppose HB 2345.

Submitted by:

Date: 3/3/2015

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