



Bill HB 2378

Opposed

Norm Conard

1992 Kansas Teacher of the Year

2007 National Teacher's Hall of Fame

Executive Director of the Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes in Fort Scott.

Dear Representatives:

As Director of the Lowell Milken Center in Fort Scott and the Lowell Milken Center Europe, I travel the country working with educators. We develop great stories of unsung heroes in history, and use them as role models. You may have heard of our cornerstone project, Life in a Jar: the Irena Sendler Project.

In my travels I meet many award winning educators. They are unanimous in agreement about the Kansas Awards Program. These nationally recognized teachers say the Kansas Teacher of the Year program is the model for the nation. I oppose HB 2378, a bill which destroys America's most successful teacher award program. For 20 plus years, the Kansas ideal has been the leader in the Teacher of the Year program. They recognize the real benefits come to the children of Kansas.

I also work with the Milken Educator Award, and bring to Kansas Lowell Milken Center Fellows, America's best educators. These great teachers are in agreement about the outstanding Kansas program. Let's not tear down this Teacher of the Year success, which has been such a pillar for the students in our Kansas classrooms. Just a note, I spoke with the Director of the Milken Educator Awards this morning in Los Angeles and she said they never take a stand on a bill. I had previously been told by a state representative that the Milken Educator Award Director supported this bill.

Sincerely,

Norm Conard

Executive Director

Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes

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