

Thank you for your support of teachers in Kansas. The proposed bill shows that you recognize the vital role teachers play, and wish to reward them for this work. However, the loss of the Kansas Teacher of the Year program will be detrimental to Kansas teachers. This program is well established and provides quality professional development for teachers throughout the state of Kansas. As Kansas Teacher of the Year in 2012, I appreciated the financial award but the professional rewards were the most beneficial. As part of the national teacher of the year program I gained new ideas and insights that I was able to bring back to the teachers of Kansas. Also, as the Kansas representative at national conferences, I was able to share the positive aspects of Kansas education with educators and policy makers across the nation. This program strengthens and encourages all teachers in the state of Kansas. On a personal note, my daughter realized that teaching is an important profession during my teacher of the year experience and decided to become a teacher as well. She strives to become a great educator and one day become Kansas Teacher of the Year. Please give her the opportunity to follow in her mother's footsteps.

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