



Mark Desetti, Testimony
House Education Committee
March 18, 2015
SB 70

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to HB 70.

While KNEA has no objection to background checks, we believe that SB 70 is an unnecessary extension of current law.

Every new teacher in Kansas is fingerprinted and subjected to a rigorous background check. The law has provided that every teacher licensed before the background check went into effect would be subject to fingerprinting and a background check upon the next renewal of their license. All teachers then would have been subject to the requirement within five years of the passage of the bill.

There is no rationale for requiring this process to be repeated every time a teacher renews his/her teaching license. Fingerprints don't change and with the KBI Rap Back program, the state and districts are notified if there is a subsequent legal issue.

Senate Bill 70 does not accomplish anything that current law already covers. It does, however, put a significant financial burden on every licensed teachers who would be required to pay the full cost of the background check every five years in addition to relicensing fees and the cost of continuing education for licensure. We would respectfully ask the committee to reject Senate Bill 70.