

House Education Committee
On
House Bill 2504
Submitted by
Sandy Halling, USD 459 Board of Education Member
January 30, 2016

Chairman Highland and members of the committee:

I am writing on behalf of the community and Board of Education for Bucklin Schools. We do not support HB 2504 for many reasons, including, but not limited to the following:

- Our small community is autonomous with our school district. To lose our school district could become the loss of our connectedness as a community as well.
- In a small school district, the Superintendent wears many hats and can be found to also serve as a building principal, be a substitute in a classroom, clean bathrooms, drive students to extra-curricular activities, fill in for the coaching staff, answer phones, be our tech support, serve lunch, supervise playground time, supervise lunch time, along with many, many other things, too. One superintendent for the whole county would not be able to help in these areas.
- Parents value the opportunity to enroll their children in small, rural schools where there is an atmosphere of community and togetherness.
- Any cuts made to the district would also be seen as cuts made to our community, as a reduction in staff would likely result in the reduction of the number of people in our community.
- This bill tells us that you don't really care about our community and many other communities like ours.
- Parents value small school districts and communities because there is responsiveness to the local needs and desires of those communities.
- What is the guarantee that our local school board will continue to exist and these small schools will have a voice in such a large, county-wide district?

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandy Halling

USD 459 Board of Education