

Senate Education Standing Committee

Proponent for **Senate Bill 60**

By Wendy J. Phelan

February 2, 2015

Dear Chairman Abrams,

Please consider supporting SB 60 to allow students from non-accredited private schools, commonly known as "homeschools", in Kansas to participate in public school extracurricular activities. Non-accredited private schools in Kansas are self-funded by hard-working Kansas families who willingly provide tax support to local school districts, while also saving the school districts money in the form of staffing, insurance, food, textbooks, materials, testing fees, etc.

We provide our own curricula, in most cases, that greatly exceed the minimum standards set by the federal government and adopted by the state . These children are absolutely and completely contributors to the social well being of our communities. These children add to the cultural and social diversity of Kansas communities by offering new methods of educational opportunities, by serving our community in a variety of volunteer opportunities, by interacting with adults and children of varying ages thereby learning how others co-exist as well as in numerous other inspiring ways.

These children will indeed add a richness of culture, inspiration, dedication and ability to the already beautiful fabric of Kansas communities.

Please take a lesson from our textbooks and encourage all children in Kansas to participate in extracurricular activities so that we may show that all children matter, not just the children that sit in the public school classroom.

Thank you.

Wendy J. Phelan
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