

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Geneva Hare. I own a home in Longton, Kansas, and I have been teaching at Elk Valley Elementary School for the past 34 years. Three years ago, I made the decision to early retire and I continued teaching at USD #283. For a while, I thought about relocating in a larger town. Elk County is very rural and the population is quite small. It is also a county with a high percentage of poverty. Three years flew by quickly, and now, I am facing tough decisions. Decisions that will be largely determined by the actions of you and others at the Kansas State Capitol. Decisions that effect me socially, physically, and financially.

I have discovered that working here at Elk Valley School is where I'm suppose to be. The children of Elk County face tremendous challenges due to their socioeconomic situations. They are children at risk and deserve every opportunity that is available to them to learn, grow, and achieve success! Many of our students go on to higher learning and have become hard working responsible citizens. They may have started out quite poor, but that doesn't mean they are not intelligent. My passion has been, and continues to be, being the best teacher and advocate I can be for these children here in Elk County! I am invested in this community! As I said earlier, I own a home here in Longton and pay taxes in Elk County.

Those of us with years of experience in teaching, are a valuable asset to the school district. Experience is the greatest teacher! Most young people are not interested in living in small rural communities. It is very difficult for our district to replace teachers.

In closing, I will be truthful, and add that I did not become a teacher to get rich! I became a teacher to touch the lives of children and make a difference! After many years of doing what I am passionate about, it has been nice to finally make extra income by collecting my retirement and continuing to teach! It is my retirement. I worked for it. What other profession dictates what you can and cannot do after retiring??

Sincerely,

Ms. Geneva Hare