



Schools for Quality Education

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House Education Committee

House Bill 2166

Submitted by

Justin Coup, Superintendent, Solomon USD 393, a member of Schools for Quality Education

Chairman Huebert and committee members. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today on the topic of financial literacy. I am Justin Coup, Superintendent of Solomon USD 393, and a board member of Schools for Quality Education, an organization of 105 rural school districts. I am representing both entities in opposition to **House Bill 2166**.

The Solomon district is a small rural 1A district located on I-70 in Central Kansas. We also serve as a bedroom community for larger cities and towns. Our district and other small rural districts have already been addressing financial literacy with the assistance of the State Board of Education for many years. Our local board requires 1 unit of financial literacy to graduate from Solomon High School. We also currently require Economics to graduate as our seniors take Econ/Government together and receive a 1 semester credit for each. Because we are a 1A school district, as are many other small rural districts, the mandated requirement to give a course in financial literacy in either grade 11 or 12 would cause a scheduling nightmare. There is no doubt that this new mandate would also increase costs and create other hardships for districts with fewer students than ours.

The State Board of Education currently develops the curriculum, materials and guidelines that are required for a course. **House Bill 2166** would move this control from the state board and local boards of education to the state legislature, in spite of the fact that the outcomes and requirements of a financial literacy course are already being provided and met in either econ/business essentials/accounting/agribusiness/intro to facs (family and consumer science) . . . all classes currently offered at Solomon High School. The additional mandate of requiring Kindergarten through grade 10 to add more to the math or other curriculum will be difficult and should remain a local control decision.

"Rural is Quality"

Thank you for allowing me to speak to you today in opposition to **House Bill**
2166.

Justin Coup
Superintendent
Solomon Schools

"Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow"