

PROPONENT Testimony on HB 2489
For the House Transportation Committee
January 26, 2020
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Kansas Educators Support Foundation

Chairman Proehl and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony related to House Bill 2489.

I am a Spanish teacher at McPherson High School, just about to finish my fifth year. In my classroom, I spend my days working towards intertwining cultural competence and language skills to ensure my students are better prepared for when they leave our school. Outside of the classroom, I have made it my mission to support other educators in whatever way I can. This has led to developing into a leader within the Kansas National Education Association (KNEA). I currently serve as the President of the McPherson Education Association, a local chapter of KNEA, and the Vice-President of UD1-Valley, a Uniserv District of KNEA. In the past, I served on a task force formed by KNEA that was composed of early career educators that looked at some of the issues early career educators faced. With my experience and drive to support teachers, I couldn't pass up an opportunity to work with the Kansas Educators Support Foundation. I currently serve as the secretary/treasurer of the Kansas Educators Support Foundation. The purpose of the foundation is to provide resources that support Kansas educators in their continued learning, professional development, instructional practice, and classroom needs.

There are a lot of things first-year teachers have to deal with, as it is a lot of learning on the spot. Because of this, about 30% leave the profession after their first year, and 40%-50% leave within five years. One challenge for first-year teachers is simply preparing one's first classroom for students with little to no budget for supplies and no hope of a full paycheck for a month or two after school begins.

Most first-year teachers just spent a semester student teaching with little or no time to earn money. Starting off your career after months of not earning much money can be a huge struggle for many. Grants from the proceeds of the plates will be awarded to first-year Kansas teachers for classroom supplies, professional development, and professional clothing as they begin their career.

I encourage you to support the passage of HB 2489. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony.

Ricardo Sanchez

