

February 22, 2021

Proponent of H.B. 2354

I have been a teacher for 22 years in the state of Kansas and a member of the KNEA my entire teaching career until this year. I never felt the union did anything for me, but no one ever explained how to get out of the union. I needed the tax write off, so I didn't worry about how to terminate my membership.

That changed this year when the ONEA (I have been a member for the past 20 years) started doing everything in its power to stop students from going back to the classroom. When the union started publicly lying to the media saying they represented all of us, I had to get out. I spoke against ONEA at an Olathe School Board meeting making it public this was NOT how all teachers felt and this was all a political stunt. I had to send multiple emails to the ONEA President to get my membership canceled. At first I was told I could not get out because I had missed the August 1 deadline. No one ever made me aware there was a deadline to cancel my membership. After I threatened to continue to speak against the ONEA publicly to expose their lies, they finally let me out of the union.

Leaving the union should not be difficult. All members should be able to get out at any time without any hassle. The better option for Kansas would be to dissolve KNEA and no longer let it exist in Kansas.

Marni Mills  
Olathe, Kansas