

Representative Steve Huebert
Proponent Testimony for HB2572 Educator Protection Act
House Education Committee
February 10, 2021

Kansas educators work hard every day and they need the peace of mind that they are protected from lawsuits resulting from simply performing the work they are assigned to do. Liability protection is a benefit that all teachers deserve. Although teachers are generally covered by their school districts under the Kansas Tort Claims Act, and many have a second layer of coverage through teachers unions, the coverage limits may leave them potentially exposed. This legislation covers any amount in excess of their district provided coverage. The Act would establish the Kansas Educator Liability fund in the state treasury, to be administered by the Commissioner of Insurance. The extent of the insurance coverage is subject to appropriations made to the fund.

I believe excess coverage should be provided by the state as part of our commitment to support our teachers. This *Educator Protection Act* allows teachers to solely focus on teaching and does not put the stress on them of finding a liability insurance policy that they must pay for. There doesn't need to be anything complicated about teachers knowing they have a safety net. There doesn't need to be anything political about teachers knowing they have a safety net.

- This bill covers all full time, part time and student teachers.
- There is no cost to Kansas teachers.
- Other states that have enacted similar legislation have found it to be cost effective, and an important part of the support system for teachers.

I urge the Committee to support **HB2038**.

Representative Steve Huebert