



Testimony before the
House Education Committee
on
HB 2466

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Testimony provided on behalf of USA-Kansas.

Representative Huebert and Committee Members

Thank you for allowing USA Kansas to testify on HB 2466. As the bill is written now, we stand in opposition, but with some modifications we would stand in favor.

We currently know many of our school districts offer some type of computer science classes. They have used their local control to teach this class in their schools. Yes, we realize this could look different from district to district. A computer class in western Kansas could, and probably should look different than in eastern Kansas. Finding staff for this class will be extremely difficult. Smaller districts are already at a disadvantage. Teachers in smaller schools are already having multiple classes to plan, adding one more can be unrealistic. What should a school give up teaching to teach a computer class? In small schools this will be reality.

This bill, as we interpret it, would make a uniform computer science class in Kansas. It would be based on the Computer Science Principles listed in Code.org. Once again, the need for western Kansas is different than eastern Kansas. This computer class is one of many classes that could add value to a Kansas graduate. We cannot expect our students to continue to have more credits for graduation without some relief from other graduation credits.

Our major concern is with Section 5 and the way it is worded. This class becomes a graduation credit and before it becomes credit, it sunsets? This makes no sense and is very confusing. We would hope bills coming out of committee would be easy to understand. This one is not clear at all.

Currently there is a graduation committee studying requirements in Kansas. This bill seems a little premature before the committee has even finalized their report. You also have a State Board of Education that is tasked to recommend these types of changes to schools. Allow them to do their job.

Thank you for your time and consideration.