



Written Testimony before the
House K-12 Education Budget Committee
in opposition to

House Bill 2411 – AN ACT concerning school district boards of education; relating to the professional negotiations act; authorizing boards of education to choose which professional employees' organization to recognize as the exclusive bargaining unit for negotiations

by

Judith Deedy, Executive Director Game On for Kansas Schools

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Madam Chair, Members of the Committee:

[Game On for Kansas Schools](#) is a nonpartisan grassroots effort among Kansans who share a belief in high-quality public education as a right of all Kansas students. We advocate for Kansas public schools to ensure our teachers, principals, superintendents, and school board members have the resources necessary to deliver quality education to all Kansas students. We inform communities across the state about issues and legislation affecting their students, and our membership extends statewide.

We oppose HB 2411 as an unnecessary intrusion into the current negotiations process between teachers and school boards. We recall the process through which Kansas National Education Association, the United School Administrators of Kansas and the Kansas School Superintendents Association met several years ago to make some changes to the contract negotiations procedures as they existed at the time. We have heard no calls from any of those entities for the changes in HB 2411. Parents certainly aren't clamoring for this bill. From the outside, this bill looks like an attack on teachers, and we believe teachers will perceive it as an attack. That troubles us as teachers in our state have faced a difficult year and should feel supported by the Kansas legislature and Kansas citizens. We don't believe this bill will have a substantial impact on school board/teacher contract negotiations, but we believe it might become another obstacle in our efforts to recruit and retain high quality teachers for our schools. We believe HB 2411 does more harm than good and urge the committee members to oppose its passage.