

**Opponent, written testimony before the**

Committee on K-12 Education Budget

on

**HB 2382 - An Act concerning school district boards of education;  
*the school district board of education member free speech and transparency act.***

by

Gail Jamison,

USD 265 Board of Education Member

February 15, 2023

Madam Chairwoman, Members of the Committee:

I am a member of the USD 265 Board of Education, elected three times to serve (4 year) terms, in my non-partisan position, by the citizens of my community to represent the Goddard School District and its 6200 students. I currently serve as President of the School Board. It is an honor and privilege to be an elected representative for my district's students, staff and their families.

I dedicate my service to my district as I value public education and its important role in *preparing all students for lifelong success*. This is the mission of our district and this belief, along with our strategic plan, guides our policies and practices.

We are a board who regularly engages in board training and professional development in order to carry out our duties. Like you, we take an oath of office and we uphold the Kansas Constitution. It is our Kansas Constitution, Article 6, Section 5 that holds, "Local public schools under the general supervision of the state board of education shall be maintained, developed and operated by locally elected boards."

Overall, HB 2382 does not respect the local school board authority.

Of even greater concern in HB 2382 is *requiring certain records made, maintained or kept on a member's private electronic device to be subject to disclosure under the open records act*; which I view as an invasion of privacy by exclusively targeting the records of school board members by amending the wording of K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 45-217;

HB 2382 (page 4) line 9 (B) records that are made, maintained or kept by an individual who is a member of the legislature or of the governing body of any political or taxing subdivision of the state, *except records made, maintained or kept by members of school district boards of education provided pursuant to section 1, and amendments thereto*;

It is of note that elected members of the legislature, city commissioners and county commissioners will not be held to a like standard as elected school board members.

For these reasons, I stand in opposition to HB 2382 and urge the members to oppose HB 2382.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.