

**From:** [Kristey Williams](#)  
**To:** [K12 Budget](#)  
**Subject:** FW: HB 2506 Proponent Written Only  
**Date:** Monday, January 22, 2024 1:32:32 PM

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REP. KRISTEY WILLIAMS  
*Chair K-12 Education Budget*  
*Majority Caucus Chair*  
*77<sup>th</sup> District, Augusta*

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**From:** Lori Rice <lorihrice@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 1:16 PM  
**To:** Kristey Williams <Kristey.Williams@house.ks.gov>; K12 Budget <K.12.Budget@house.ks.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 2506 Proponent Written Only

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*Manhattan Virtual Academy K-2 educator, K-12 gifted educator*  
[lorihrice@gmail.com](mailto:lorihrice@gmail.com)  
*HB 2506*  
*Proponent*  
*Hearing: Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2024 @3:30 pm*

Imagine a bright Kansas kid, eyes glued to the screen, absorbing knowledge and learning in the comfort of their home. They dream of leaping across the virtual divide, joining the marching band, debating like a champion, or soaring with the spirit teams. But a wall stands in their way, a wall built not of bricks, but of regulations.

I am writing in support of HB 2506 for numerous reasons, but primarily for the education of the whole child in the state of Kansas. This Bill is proposing students enrolled in virtual schools be allowed to participate in activities regulated by the Kansas State High School Activities Association under such student's residential school district without a minimum enrollment requirement in said residential school district. Allowing students attending virtual schools to participate in activities under KSHSAA opens opportunities in multiple ways for our students and families who are currently learning or want to learn through a virtual education environment. This could be great news for many virtual students who have wanted to participate in sports and activities, yet still attend school fully online!

For three years, I've witnessed the magic of virtual education at Manhattan Virtual Academy. We provide a rigorous curriculum, but something crucial is missing - the chance for our

students to be part of the tapestry of school sports and activities.

These students choose virtual learning for diverse reasons. Some battle chronic illness, others embrace unique learning styles, some travel the world, and some simply seek a safe, supportive environment. But one thing unites them: a burning desire to connect, to contribute, to be seen.

HB 2506 offers a key. It unlocks the door to the band room, the football field, and the stage. It lets students build friendships, discover passions, and become well-rounded individuals.

Think of the shy gamer blossoming in the drama club, the homebound student finding wings in debate, the isolated child cheering alongside their classmates. Think of the enriched classrooms, the strengthened communities, the joy of inclusion.

This isn't just about policy; it's about potential. It's about giving every Kansas child, virtual or brick-and-mortar, the chance to shine. It's about educating the whole child, heart, mind, and spirit.

So, I implore you, legislators, cast a vote for HB 2506. Tear down the wall, break the chains, and let our virtual students join the chorus of Kansas youth. Let them experience the full symphony of school life. Let them learn, grow, and soar together.

The future of Kansas education depends on it.

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Lori Rice