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HB 2612- Requiring school districts to be in compliance with all state laws and rules and regulations to be accredited and requiring the state board of education to establish a process to challenge determinations of such compliance.

OPPONENT

Hearing Date: 2/5/2024

Chair Williams and members of the House K-12 Budget committee:

I oppose HB 2612. I believe this policy would be a detriment to our world-class public schools in Kansas, and that you should not support the bill.

First, the bill only covers public schools and does not hold private schools in Kansas to the same standards. I also don't believe that we should be putting our public schools under a strict scrutiny to achieve a statutorial standard when, in fact, the Kansas Legislature itself has not met a statutorial obligation to fully fund special education in our state.

As a Kansan, I believe that our public education systems are highly important, and a large reason why many families move to Kansas in the first place. It would not be in our best interest to do things that would put into question the integrity of our public education systems when there isn't a reason to.

I also urge you to think of the negative impact this might have on students if their school, for whatever reason, loses their accreditation. Students applying for college may have a harder time being accepted, and schools may face uphill battles to regain that accreditation. It's not fair to the bright students who are the future of our state to put them in that position.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote **NO** on HB 2612. Thank you.