

My name is Kirsten Workman. I'm from Lansing, KS. My oldest child is a senior at Lansing High School-USD 469. I am a registered nurse with a Master's Degree in Nursing Education. Last year I resigned from a full-time faculty position with a university in part so I could homeschool my two younger children. I'm here to talk to you about the assault on parental rights coordinated by many of our public school teachers, administrators, and the labor union they serve. I'd like to preface my remarks by thanking the honest, tireless, caring teachers and administrators who keep politics, sex and revisionist history out of our children's classrooms.

It's difficult to summarize my experience trying to insulate my daughter from English assignments that were sexually explicit, violent, full of vulgar profanity and slurs, moral relativism, gender-based identity politics, Marxism, propaganda, and unabashed critical race theory. Here are my records of course materials and email communications. I've brought a copy of my slideshow I presented to our board of education which tells the whole story, and I'd like to offer it to you for your review.

I first voiced concerns to my daughter's English teacher and principal when she was learning how to analyze fairytales using a "Marxist literary lens." The teacher immediately ceased all communication with me because "my concerns were curricular in nature," and the principal began pressuring me to withdraw my daughter from her English course and enroll her in an online alternative. I refused to require my daughter give up in-person instruction and six weeks of already-completed work to start over in an online course.

I asked the teacher to excuse my daughter from future assignments that involved Marxism, post-colonialism, or gender-based identity politics in her English class. The teacher would not honor that expectation, and instead encouraged my daughter to write about the ways her gender affects her perception of her identity. I started asking questions and requested to see basic information that was absent from the course syllabus. After weeks of asking, I finally had to submit a KORA request to get a *partial* response. Instead of being transparent, the administration emailed me hundreds of pages of material—much of it completely irrelevant or no longer in use. The administration obfuscated, delayed, ignored and outright lied to me about the course materials and the context of their use.

I would request to meet with the teacher nine times before the board of education would force her to have a conversation with me. I received an assurance from the administration that our daughter would not be required to complete assignments that conflict with our family's values and religious beliefs; yet the reality in the classroom was that far-left, opinion-based political writings were presented as factual, expository writing. Students were required to take and defend one-sided social activist stances in order to participate, develop their "expository" writing skills and receive feedback.

When I was finally able to meet with the teacher, I told her my daughter may not read any more sexually-themed material. Less than two weeks later, my daughter was reading arguments in favor of abortion and the *unfettered access to pornography*. The assignment mentioned the titles of two pornographic films, compared child pornography to child labor, and discussed differences between erotica and types of porn that heterosexual men find gratifying. The entire English course was morally depraved.

This teacher exercised total disregard for our parental rights, religious beliefs and other strongly-held values by repeatedly exposing our daughter to material we objected

to. She did so with defiant impunity, with the full knowledge, coordination and support of the administration. The repeated breach of boundaries was so unyielding that by early December, I felt I had no alternative but to inform the district that my next step would be to contact law enforcement for assistance in preventing our daughter's future exposure to subject matter dealing with sex or pornography.

After our governor vetoed the will of the people for a state-wide Parents' Bill of Rights, our local Board of Education voted to adopt one. You can see it did me no good. I was persistent and consistently civil in my communication, yet the teacher and administration stonewalled, obfuscated and outright lied about the materials and assignments until they were done teaching the unit. Because I objected to this material, my daughter faced bullying and intimidation from her peers and *multiple* other teachers, and lost out on six weeks of instruction sitting in a conference room being ignored by her educators while I waited for them to speak with me.

Please enact legislation that requires teachers respect parents' directions for their children's education. But even more importantly, please require teachers map their course objectives to the state board of education standards. The department of education is right, there's no CRT in our state curriculum...it's being inserted by teachers given free reign to teach whatever they want regardless of the subject matter they are contracted to present. There is a pervasive culture in academia that those who teach are not to be questioned or held accountable, and that parents are ignorant. They are using taxpayer funded resources to indoctrinate our children with communist, far-left political ideals. And they're doing it everywhere, right under our noses while very few of our kids actually learn to read, write or understand basic algebra. The teacher's union is too powerful, and parents need to be able to demand accountability if we are to protect our children.