

HB 2506 testimony

Proponent of HB 2506

Written email testimony for hearing 01/24/24

Hello,

I am writing today to express my hope that HB 2506 will become a reality in the state of Kansas. I am the mother of 6 children and for the last ten years, my children have learned at home through homeschooling and virtual school options. Our family has been involved with Maize Virtual for 7 years. This is an excellent educational option and fit for our family and our children have thrived in this setting. The one thing missing is the opportunity for our children to participate in sports and activities at the brick-and-mortar building in our community.

Last spring, we decided to pivot from virtual school to homeschooling for our oldest daughter entering high school. Thankfully, because of legislation passed last spring, she was able to run cross country in the fall, is currently competing on the high school scholars bowl team, and plans to run track— all with our local public school. Not only has it been a positive experience for her to participate, but because of the rural nature of our local school, it has helped them to have her participate.

Our options are extremely limited for sports and activity participation outside of the local school, due to living in a remote community and the sheer cost to do so. This is an unnecessary barrier to restrict virtual school students from participating.

We love our local community. We support the local school by attending sporting events, participating in fundraisers, and attending musical events. We vote in local elections and pay property taxes.

Our son will be entering the eighth grade in the fall and would be thrilled to participate in sports at the school in our community. Currently, he is unable due to our enrollment with Maize Virtual. We are so thankful that Kansas provides a variety of educational options for parents to choose from and we are thankful that we have the privilege to choose the best one for our children. Our son is so thankful for the opportunities available to him because of his enrollment with Maize, and yet, he would love the opportunity to play on a sports team with peers in our community. We are hopeful that HB 2506 will be passed and he will be able to have the same opportunity to access sports and activities that all other children his age have in the state of Kansas.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rachel Boese

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