

From: [Molly Hinnners Bierl](#)
To: [Susan Bartley](#)
Subject: KS House Bill 2506
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To the Education Chair of the Kansas House of Representatives:

My family and I live in Shawnee, Kansas, and I am writing today to urge you to vote for virtual students to participate in their local district's activities that are regulated by the Kansas state high school activities association at such student's resident school district without a minimum enrollment requirement in such resident school district, spelled out in detail in House Bill 2506 as requested by Representative Thomas.

My son has always been homeschooled, we are registered as an accredited homeschool and we have been enrolled in Maize Virtual Prep School since 2021. He plays basketball as well as travel lacrosse. My child loves debate, the technology of theatre production, and music. He has been identified by psychological testing as Gifted. Since Maize is in Wichita, we have missed out on all of the elementary and middle school activities offered by the district and we have payed for many activities out of pocket, even though we pay a large amount in taxes to fund schools within our residential area. My child actually gave up on basketball because his "team" was going to middle school and he wouldn't be allowed to try out for the school team because he is registered as a Maize student. Now, it's been heavily studied about how much sports (and so many other activities) are essential for cognition, health, character-building, and the like. So, squashed was an opportunity for my child to participate because he was registered virtually in another Kansas district.

This has got to change. My children and all homeschooled children need access to the same activities as their neighborhood friends. Again, we pay the same taxes as our neighbors and should thus be allowed to have a strong say in our children's educational endeavors as well as provide them the same opportunities as age-matched peers within the context of education. We live in a technologically-savvy time and we parents have choices and rights when it comes to choosing quality education, and Maize Virtual Prep school's partner teachers have been that quality as well as important to our family's well-being and growth in my children's educational journey. And, of course we ALL know how education effects ALL facets of society-basically, it's rather crucial.

My daughter, a Maize Virtual Prep student, is an avid artist and tennis player. She, too, deserves the same access as her peers to quality coaching and activities without us incurring such heavy costs associated with these activities within the private sector.

I strongly encourage you to pass this bill and allow our children the same quality learning opportunities as other children within our district and those across Kansas.

Thank you for your service and the time you invest in our children.

Sincerely,
Molly Hinnners Bierl, M.S., CCC-SLP