



Written Testimony before the  
Senate Education Committee

in opposition to

**House Bill 2236 – Establishing parents' right to direct the education, upbringing and moral or religious training of their children including the right to object to harmful and inappropriate educational materials**

by

Judith Deedy, Executive Director **Game On for Kansas Schools**

March 9, 2023

Madam Chair, Members of the Committee:

[Game On for Kansas Schools](#) is a nonpartisan grassroots effort among Kansans who share a belief in high-quality public education as a right of all Kansas students. We advocate for Kansas public schools to ensure our teachers, principals, superintendents, and school board members have the resources necessary to deliver quality education to all Kansas students. We inform communities across the state about issues and legislation affecting their students, and our membership extends statewide.

We oppose HB 2236 because this bill is over-broad, usurps the role of local boards of education and fails to protect against inappropriate use. Parents already generally have these rights, and school boards already have policies for addressing the limited situations in which these rights conflict with particular lessons or curricula. This bill, however, would allow parents to object to any educational materials or activities at a school district their child attends and withdraw the student from the class or programming if the educational material or activity is not included in the approved district curriculum or state educational standards, **or** impairs the parent's sincerely held beliefs, values, or principles. The bill would state that the academic record of any student withdrawn from the class, educational program, or activity based upon the criteria in the bill could not be adversely affected by the student's withdrawal. There is no acknowledgment that educators are professionals and no attention to the impacts on a classroom of 30 students, all with different parents with different beliefs being invited to self-select individual lessons. There are no protections against a student withdrawing from a class because they're not doing well and claiming it's because they object to the material.

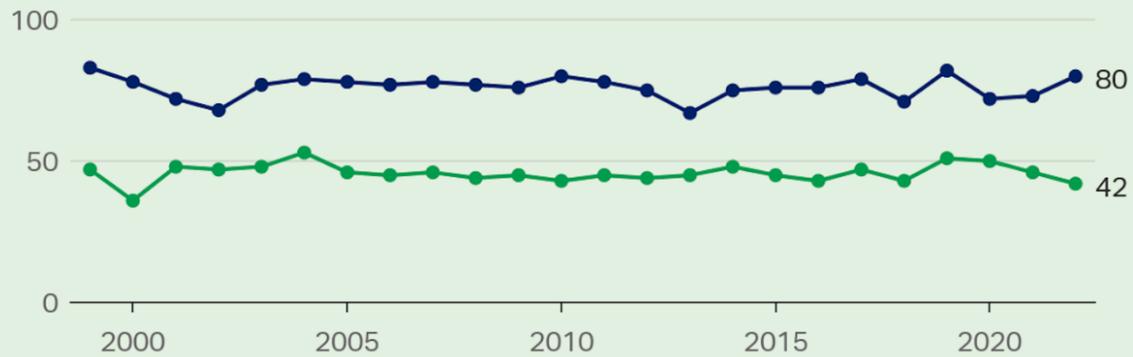
We also object to this bill because it implies that parents need this legislation, and their right to direct their children's upbringing is not being honored by schools. In doing so, it plays into the culture wars inappropriately being waged on our public schools. A recent Gallup poll shows that parents with children in public school are highly satisfied with public education, whereas adults who don't are much less satisfied. We believe bills like this are part of the reason behind that polling data. Bills like this serve to undermine public education more than they serve to protect rights parents already have.

## Satisfaction With U.S. K-12 Education

% Completely or somewhat satisfied

— % U.S. adults satisfied with U.S. education

— % Parents satisfied with oldest child's education



Question asked of U.S. adults: Overall, how satisfied are you with the quality of education students receive in kindergarten through grade twelve in the U.S. today -- would you say you are completely satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or completely dissatisfied?

Question asked of parents with children in grades kindergarten through 12: How satisfied are you with the quality of education your oldest child is receiving? Would you say you are completely satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or completely dissatisfied?

GALLUP

We urge you to vote no on moving HB 2236 out of committee.