

HB 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.

Proponent Testimony-in person  
Senate Education  
March 9, 2023

Hello, my name is Amy Cawvey and I am a sitting school board member and Vice President at Lansing USD 469. Speaking as an individual and not on behalf of the board, I fully place my support behind house bill 2236.

Last year after the parents' bill of rights was vetoed, I, a sitting school board member, decided to introduce the Lansing Parents' Bill of Rights. This policy closely mirrored the vetoed bill and included the right of every parent to direct the education, upbringing and the moral and religious training of such child. We passed this policy June of 2022. This parents' bill of rights is critical and although each individual school board does retain home rule authority to pass such policy, not every parent has a school board member or willing or a majority of a school board willing to pass the parents bill of right. Every parent does, however, have those rights. Unfortunately, those rights are often usurped by the local school boards, administration, or teachers.

Included in our parents bill of rights and this bill is the right to object to curriculum or other materials. This is a critical and much needed to ensure that the parents do not receive pushback from administration, the student does not suffer loss of learning, any adverse effects to their record, and that alternative assignments are available for the student. I have seen this policy work in our district, and I feel it is vital. I am a proponent of public education, but if we do not want to continue to lose students and to advocate for those who do not have the choice to homeschool or attend private schools, we need to make sure that parents maintain these rights.

As a sitting school board member whose district is a member of Kansas Association of School Boards, I have heard their advocacy members speak either at hearings, online, or in podcasts in opposition of education bills with the reasoning that school board members do not want these changes or that their position is one of opposition. I must not be on the correct mailing list because I as a school board member have never been asked my take on these bills by KASB. I have not seen a survey put out to members asking how we feel. I know many other school board members across the state who also support this bill, yet we were never asked our opinion. So I come to you today as a sitting school board member and a parent to place my full support being HB 2236.

Thank you,  
Amy Cawvey, Vice President  
Lansing USD 469 School Board