From:
 Beth Allen

 To:
 House Education

 Subject:
 Ruby Bridges WTSD

**Date:** Monday, February 17, 2025 7:31:32 AM

I am writing to share my support for HB2330 in order to permanently recognize a Ruby Bridges Walk To School Day. The state of Kansas was the epicenter of the landmark Brown vs Topeka Board of Education which led to the segregation of students by race being declared unconstitutional. When Ruby Bridges visited for the 70th anniversary of that landmark case, she reached thousands of Kansas children with her story.

What a monumental opportunity we have to recognize that woman on a yearly basis as a symbol of recognizing the importance of educating all children and valuing all children's right to learn. What an inspiring event this could become for our students and communities.

I encourage you to adopt HB2330.

Sincerely,

Beth Allen Mission Hills, KS. Resident Parent of 2 Shawnee Mission East graduates Former teacher and school administrator



Tiffany Anderson, Ed. D Superintendent of Schools

# Written Testimony on HB 2330 Submitted to the House Education Committee Monday, February 17, 2025

Chair Estes and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony supporting HB 2330, a bill designed to promote education and historical awareness among Kansas schoolchildren.

Designating November 14th annually as Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day would allow students to connect with Civil Rights Movement history in a powerful way. Walking to school in her honor would build unity among students, educators, and community members, emphasizing the values of equality and perseverance.

In addition to its historical importance, a Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day would benefit student health and well-being by promoting physical activity and safe walking routes. Walking to school together strengthens community bonds and provides a shared experience that reinforces respect and acceptance.

Therefore, we respectfully urge the committee to support HB 2330.

Dr. Tiffany Anderson Superintendent Topeka Public Schools - USD 501 Jim Edwards Lobbyist Topeka Public Schools - USD 501 From: <u>Dave B</u>

To: <u>Dan Hawkins; Chris Croft; House Education; Susan Estes; Sherri Brantley; Shawn Chauncey; Linda Featherston;</u>

Jason Goetz; Scott Hill; Steve Huebert; Kyle McNorton; Silas Miller; Lon E. Pishny; Louis Ruiz; Rebecca Schmoe;

Mark Schreiber; Megan Steele; Jerry Stogsdill; Valdenia Winn; Dawn Wolf; Mari-Lynn Poskin

Cc: correspondence@ks.gov; governor@ks.gov

Subject:Ruby Bridges Walk to School DayDate:Monday, February 10, 2025 3:15:27 PM

All,

I believe we need to make sure that this proclamation moves forward. So many things we spend time on that never have an impact or only serve a few.....this is different! This is our history and shouldn't be left behind.

A simple act that encourages and recognizes what took place. I believe if we all reflect on what gave us encouragement and hope in our lives, we will remember how someone else's courage made us a better person and provided us with "if they could do that, why can't !".

Courage comes in all shapes and sizes (and colors)! Thank you for any support you can provide.

Regards,

Dave Bartel

Board Member Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Crime Commission Crime Stoppers

Board Member
Helzberg Entrepreneurial Mentoring Program

Cell: 913.558.3839

"A desk is a dangerous place from which to view the world"

John le Carre'

Kristen Blackton Private Citizen <u>krosekauf@gmail.com</u>

HB 2330: Designating November 14 as Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day Written-Only Proponent February 17. 2025

Chair Estes and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kristen Blackton, and I am a parent and former educator living in Shawnee. Thank you for taking the time to read my proponent testimony for HB 2330.

As you know, Kansas was the site of the monumental Supreme Court case, Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, which ended racial segregation in American public schools. In American history, Kansas played a large role in making equitable public education available to all students, regardless of their race or ethnicity. The Civil Rights activist Ruby Bridges, also, played a huge role in desegregating our schools as the first African American child to attend a formerly whites-only school during New Orleans school desegregation. How fitting, then, to bring these two pillars of history together by making Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day a recurring celebration each year in our state.

As my daughter grows older, she will learn about the history of our country and our schools, and she will learn about brave young people, like Ruby Bridges, who showed courage and fortitude in the face of adversity. Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day is a perfect way to honor Ruby's legacy as well as unite Kansas students in age-appropriate dialogue about creating positive changes in their communities. I loved seeing Ruby herself in Kansas last year with hundreds of Kansas children, celebrating our unity and diversity. Let's keep a good thing going!

I urge you to vote **YES** on HB 2330 to designate November 14 as Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day for our Kansas kids!

Thank you for your time and for serving in Topeka,

Kristen Blackton Shawnee, KS From: capsonks@aol.com

To: <u>Dan Hawkins; Chris Croft; House Education; Susan Estes; Sherri Brantley; Shawn Chauncey; Linda Featherston</u>

**Subject:** Support HB2330 Ruby Bridges

**Date:** Monday, February 10, 2025 3:29:46 PM

Please vote for HB2330 to have a hearing before turn around day to make Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day celebration a permanent one in Kansas. Ruby Bridges story has made a powerful impact on the people of Kansas. Bridges even attended the 2024 event . Brown vs Board of Education of Topeka, of course, helped the US become a fairer nation.

Thank you for your support of HB2330

Alice Capson Overland Park, KS 66214 From: barbara chaplin

Dan Hawkins; Chris Croft; House Education; Susan Estes; Sherri Brantley; Shawn Chauncey; Linda Featherston; Jason Goetz; Scott Hill; Steve Huebert; Kyle McNorton; Silas Miller; Lon E. Pishny; Louis Ruiz; Rebecca Schmoe; Mark Schreiber; Megan Steele; Jerry Stogsdill; Valdenia Winn; Dawn Wolf; Mari-Lynn Poskin To:

Subject: pass HB 2330 before the turnaround deadline: Date: Monday, February 10, 2025 9:11:02 PM

Please pass HB 2330!!!! And before it is too late!!!!

Barb

Name of conferee :Doloros Clemon

Organization/agency representing: Self Contact information: lori.clemon@gmail.com

Subject: HB2330 Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day

Position: Proponent Date: February 17th, 2025

Testimony: Please approve this day as a permanent Day of Recognition.

Reasons:

The bravery of this child during such hostile times is to be honored. She helped change history.

Kansas has always been a free state. Honoring Ruby Bridges certifies the status of Kansas as recognizing the equality of all races.

Certification by the legislature sends the right message to the rest of the nation and to the world about diversity and social justice.

Ruby Bridges is an inspiration, a Civil Rights icon, and has received the Presidential Citizens Medal. She promotes tolerance and unity among school children.

From:

Jerry Stogsdill; Dan Hawkins; Chris Croft; House Education; Susan Estes; Sherri Brantley; Shawn Chauncey; Linda Featherston; Jason Goetz; Scott Hill; Steve Huebert; Kyle McNorton; Silas Miller To:

Ruby Ridges Day Subject:

Date: Monday, February 10, 2025 8:26:16 PM

Please pass HB 2330. It's important to honor the brave girl, although it is long past due.

Thank you, Lori Clemon From: <u>Janet Cody</u>

To: <u>janetcody@sbcglobal.net</u>

**Subject:** Walk to School

**Date:** Monday, February 10, 2025 6:20:18 PM

## Dear Kansas Representative:

Walk to school, what a wholesome and healthy message to get behind! Please support  ${\sf HB~2330}$ .

Janet Cody 6927 W 101st Street Overland Park, KS. 66212

- a) Lenet Compton
- b) Citizen
- c) lenetcompton@gmail.com
- d) HB2330 Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day
- e) Proponent,
- f) February 17, 2025

Ruby Nell Bridges Hall is an American civil rights activist. She was the first African American child to attend formerly whites-only William Frantz Elementary School in Louisiana during the New Orleans school desegregation crisis on November 14, 1960 (credit to Wikipedia).

On this February 14 Valentines Day join my celebration of all children by giving your heart over to love and make **Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day** permanent in Kansas.

Love, Lenet Compton Leawood, KS From: <u>Amanda Devriese-Sebilla</u>

**Subject:** Support HB 2330 – Establish Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day in Kansas

**Date:** Monday, February 10, 2025 7:02:05 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am reaching out to encourage your support for HB 2330, introduced by Rep. Barbara Ballard, to permanently recognize Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day (RBWTSD) on November 14th in Kansas.

It means a great deal to our communities to continue celebrating courage, strength and teaching our children the importance of standing up for what is right. Ruby Bridges' courageous walk to school marked a pivotal moment in the Civil Rights Movement, as she became the first Black child to integrate an all-white elementary school in New Orleans. Facing intense hostility, she stood as a symbol of resilience and change, paving the way for future desegregation efforts. Her story is a powerful reminder of the impact one individual can have in challenging injustice and advocating for equality.

By establishing RBWTSD in Kansas, we continue to educate and inspire future generations about the importance of courage, perseverance, and the ongoing fight for civil rights. Please support HB 2330 and help ensure this day is recognized across our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Amanda DeVriese-Sebilla (913)481-7030 amanda.devriese@gmail.com

Suzanne Frye Doris From:

Dan Hawkins; Chris Croft; House Education; Susan Estes; Sherri Brantley; Shawn Chauncey; Linda Featherston; Jason Goetz; Scott Hill; Steve Huebert; Kyle McNorton; Silas Miller; Lon E. Pishny; Louis Ruiz; Rebecca Schmoe; Mark Schreiber; Megan Steele; Jerry Stogsdill; Valdenia Winn; Dawn Wolf; Mari-Lynn Poskin To:

Subject: HB 2330 — Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:47:02 AM

Please pass HB 2330 before the turnaround deadline.

Thank you!

**Suzanne Frye Doris** 

From: Gretchen Geistdoerfer

To: House Education

Subject: 2330

**Date:** Monday, February 10, 2025 2:56:21 PM

Please pass HB 2330 and make Ruby Bridges' walk to school day Permanent.

Thank you.

Gretchen Geistdoerfer ggeistdoerfer@gmail.com From: **Alison Gifford** 

Dan Hawkins; Chris Croft; House Education; Susan Estes; Sherri Brantley; Shawn Chauncey; Linda Featherston; Jason Goetz; Scott Hill; Steve Huebert; Kyle McNorton; Silas Miller; Lon E. Pishny; Louis Ruiz; Rebecca Schmoe; Mark Schreiber; Megan Steele; Jerry Stogsdill; Valdenia Winn; Dawn Wolf; Mari-Lynn Poskin To:

Subject: Support for HB 2330

Monday, February 10, 2025 2:42:39 PM Date:

I support making November 14th Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day permanently in Kansas. Please make this happen in 2025!

Thank you, Alison Gifford Overland Park, Kansas Katherine Goodwin

Private Citizen

3201 W 132nd St

Leawood, KS 66209

katherine.goodwin.t@gmail.com

HB 2330 Designating Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day

Proponent

February 15, 2025

Thank you, Chairwoman and committee for hearing HB 2330, designating November 14 of each year as Ruby Bridges walk to school day in the state of Kansas. My name is Katherine Goodwin and I support this bill because it aligns with our Kansas values. As the birthplace of the landmark Brown V. Board of Education, outlawing segregation in public schools, Ruby Bridges walk to school day is an important part of honoring our history. As a recent Blue Valley North high school graduate, I believe it is important to honor our Kansas history and empower our children to always uphold our constitution. We are all owed our equal inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. When we honor and celebrate the historic day Ruby Bridges walked to end school segregation, our children remember she took claim to her inalienable equal rights. Thank you for your time and consideration.

From: Colleen Groener
To: House Education

**Subject:** Urgent: Support HB 2330 – Hearing & Vote Needed by Feb. 17

**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 4:33:32 PM

I'm reaching out to urge you to support and pass **HB 2330** before the turnaround deadline. This bill must have a hearing and be passed out of the **House Education Committee by Monday, February 17**, which coincides with **Kansas Black Legislative Day** at the Capitol.

HB 2330 recognizes the significance of **Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day**, a moment that powerfully connects to **Kansas' own history with Brown v. Board of Education**. This initiative inspires students statewide, reinforcing the values of perseverance, equality, and education.

We need your leadership to ensure this bill advances. Schools, volunteers, sponsors, and children across Kansas are counting on you to help keep Ruby Bridges' legacy alive. Please support HB 2330 and move it forward before the deadline.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards, Colleen Groener Rupal Christine Gupta Kansas Citizen

12735 Mohawk Circle Leawood, KS 66209

EMAIL ADDRESS: <a href="mailto:rupalpinto@gmail.com">rupalpinto@gmail.com</a>

PHONE: 610-241-6987

HB2330 Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day

**PROPONENT** 

February 17, 2025

Thank you, Chairwoman and Committee, for receiving my testimony.

On November 14, 2023, Kansas made history celebrating its first annual Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day. Our daughter was honored to be part of it and joined this past year's celebration of the day at her elementary school. The children participated enthusiastically and have a shared commitment to making positive change.

I am writing to encourage your support for making Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day a permanent annual event in our state. This day honors an important moment in American history—one that reflects the values of courage, perseverance, and the importance of education for all children.

In 1960, 6-year-old Ruby Bridges demonstrated extraordinary bravery when she walked to school, upholding the fundamental principle that every child deserves access to education. Her story serves as a powerful reminder of the resilience of the American spirit and the role of education in securing a strong future for our country. By officially recognizing Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day, we reinforce the values of individual determination, the pursuit of knowledge, and the importance of strong communities—values that are central to our nation's foundation.

Encouraging students to participate in this event fosters respect for history and a deeper appreciation for the freedoms we hold dear. I urge you to support this effort, ensuring that future generations continue to learn from and be inspired by the strength and determination that have shaped our great nation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your leadership and commitment to the values that unite us as Americans.

Sincerely,

Rupal C. Gupta

Jupal ! Herfa

Dear Honorable Members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing to urge you to consider making *Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day* a permanent annual event in Kansas. As an educator in Shawnee Mission School District, I see firsthand the value of this observance in shaping young minds and fostering an environment of inclusivity and understanding. Additionally, as a parent, I am proud to say that my own children participate in this meaningful event at a predominantly white school. I can personally attest to the impact it has on them.

Ruby Bridges' courageous walk to school in 1960 stands as a pivotal moment in American history, representing the fight for racial equality and the importance of education for all. By establishing Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day as a permanent observance in Kansas, we would create a powerful annual reminder of the strength, perseverance, and dignity that Ruby demonstrated in the face of adversity. This day offers students a valuable opportunity to learn about civil rights and the importance of standing up for justice—lessons that remain as essential now as they were more than sixty years ago.

As both an educator and a parent, I have seen how this event brings communities together and sparks meaningful conversations about diversity, inclusion, and social justice. The simple act of walking to school in her honor has a lasting impact on students, reminding them of the significance of education and the sacrifices made by those who came before them to ensure that all children have access to quality education. Plus it serves as a day of community, an opportunity for all of us to walk together.

By making Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day permanent, Kansas would be sending a message that we stand united in our commitment to teaching the values of equality, respect, and community. This event would not only serve as a valuable educational tool for schools but would also help to unite parents, educators, and local organizations in reinforcing the importance of social responsibility and empathy.

I respectfully ask the committee to support the designation of Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day as a permanent event in Kansas. This powerful, educational day will continue to inspire future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Becky Johnson** 

Mother of Millie (10) & Max (9), SMSD Job Coach, active community member, and proud Kansan Foverland Park, KS 66207, 913-375-0134

From: Jean Kasselman

To:

Dan Hawkins; Chris Croft; House Education; Susan Estes; Sherri Brantley; Shawn Chauncey; Linda Featherston; Jason Goetz; Scott Hill; Steve Huebert; Kyle McNorton; Silas Miller; Lon E. Pishny; Louis Ruiz; Rebecca Schmoe; Mark Schreiber; Megan Steele; Jerry Stogsdill; Valdenia Winn; Dawn Wolf; Mari-Lynn Poskin

Subject:

Date: Monday, February 10, 2025 2:11:15 PM

### Representatives,

Please support HB 2330 and make November 14 our permanent Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day in Kansas. As a voter, mother, grandmother, and retired educator, this bill is important to me. Ms. Bridges' life and story are historically significant, and every Kansan needs to be aware of her contributions.

Thank you, Jean Kasselman, Ph.D. Leawood, KS



## Written Proponent Testimony on HB 2330, Designating November 14 of each year as Ruby Bridges walk to school day

#### **House Education Committee**

By
Shannon Kimball
Government Relations Specialist

Kansas Association of School Boards skimball@kasb.org

February 17, 2025

Chair Estes and Members of the Committee,

KASB is pleased to submit this testimony in support of HB 2330, designating November 14 each year as Ruby Bridges walk to school day.

KASB's member-adopted policies demonstrate our school boards' steadfast commitment to the principle that every child deserves access to a high-quality public education:

We believe that universal public education is a fundamental right that does and should provide for each person the opportunity to reach their potential. We are therefore committed to policies that promote continuous academic growth for each student. In Kansas, we will support these beliefs without exception for, as Kansas school boards, we know that the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in a democracy may become available to none unless they are used by all.

The legacy of Ruby Bridges' bravery is an inspiration to students everywhere; students in Kansas were able to benefit from hearing Ms. Bridges' story directly from her in Topeka last November, in commemoration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. We are pleased to support this bill to further the education of students across Kansas about these important moments in our state's and our nation's history.

Thank you.

KASB is a non-profit service organization built on an abiding belief in Kansas public schools. We have put the needs of students and K-12 leaders first since 1917.

Cynthia Kunz

cindykunz15@gmail.com

HB2330 Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day

Proponent

February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025

From: BJ Martin

To: House Education; BJ Martin

Subject: HB 2330

**Date:** Monday, February 10, 2025 4:09:16 PM

H. Education,

Please pass HB 2330.

Thank you, BJ Martin

12604 Glenwood Street

OPKS 66209

From: Merrigan, Tonya M.

Dan Hawkins; Chris Croft; House Education; Susan Estes; Sherri Brantley; Shawn Chauncey; Linda Featherston; Jason Goetz; Scott Hill; Steve Huebert; Kyle McNorton; Silas Miller; Lon E. Pishny; Louis Ruiz; Rebecca Schmoe; To:

Mark Schreiber; Megan Steele; Jerry Stogsdill; Valdenia Winn; Dawn Wolf; Mari-Lynn Poskin

Subject: HB 2330 - PLEASE PASS OUT OF COMMITTEE Date: Monday, February 10, 2025 3:49:51 PM

Attachments: image001.png

Importance: High

### House Education Committee-

I am sending this email to ask you to pass HB 2330 out of committee so it can have a hearing before turnaround day. The Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day was a very positive experience for our students and families this year. Parent Teacher Organizations partnered with our schools to provide opportunities for students to engage in this activity safely. The story of Ruby Bridges was very impactful at our elementary, middle, and high schools and I would love to see this become an annual event across Kansas.

Thank you for your service to our community and state. I appreciate the time and attention you each put into the work in Topeka.

Best regards,

Tonya



Blue Valley Schools - Education Beyond Expectations

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code transmitted by this e-mail.

From: Kris Meyer

To: <u>Dan Hawkins; Chris Croft; House Education; Susan Estes; Sherri Brantley; Shawn Chauncey; Linda Featherston;</u>

Jason Goetz; Scott Hill; Steve Huebert; Kyle McNorton; Silas Miller; Lon E. Pishny; Louis Ruiz; Rebecca Schmoe;

Mark Schreiber; Megan Steele; Jerry Stogsdill; Valdenia Winn; Dawn Wolf; Mari-Lynn Poskin

**Subject:** Pass HB 2330 – Make Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day Permanent

Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 8:34:55 AM

#### Greetings House Education Committee Members,

As a former Title I educator, school principal, and lifelong advocate for equitable education, I am reaching out to urge you to schedule a hearing and pass HB 2330 to make November 14th Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day a permanent recognition in Kansas.

This day is about so much more than a walk to school. It is about teaching our children the power of courage, resilience, and the ongoing fight for equity in education. In 2023, Governor Kelly's proclamation recognized the first official Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day in Kansas, and last year, thanks to the invitation of the Kansas Senate and the children of our state, Ruby Bridges herself came to Kansas. Over 1,000 students attended in person, and schools across Kansas joined virtually. The energy, engagement, and impact of that day were unforgettable.

As an educator, I have seen how history can shape and inspire students when they see themselves reflected in it. Ruby Bridges' story is a call to action for today's students to continue advocating for justice and inclusion. Ensuring that this day is permanently recognized reinforces the values that Brown v. Topeka Board of Education fought for and reminds our students that their voices matter.

I kindly ask you to act now to pass HB 2330 and ensure the bill moves forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully, Kris Meyer Former Title I Educator & Principal Advocate for Equitable Education From: <u>Tara Mulcahy</u>

To: Dan Hawkins; House Education; Susan Estes; Sherri Brantley; Shawn Chauncey; Linda Featherston; Jason Goetz;

Scott Hill; Steve Huebert; Kyle McNorton; Silas Miller; Lon E. Pishny; Louis Ruiz; Rebecca Schmoe; Mark

Schreiber; Megan Steele; Jerry Stogsdill; Valdenia Winn; Dawn Wolf; Mari-Lynn Poskin

**Subject:** Please Support Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day

**Date:** Monday, February 10, 2025 4:32:44 PM

#### Dear Representatives,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Tara Mulcahy, and I am a fourth grade teacher at Broadmoor Elementary in Louisburg, KS. I am writing to express my strong support for making the Ruby Bridges Walk to School event a permanent annual tradition.

As an educator, I have witnessed firsthand how impactful this event is for our students. The Ruby Bridges Walk to School not only honors the courage and strength of Ruby Bridges, but it also serves as a powerful teaching tool for our students about civil rights, resilience, and the ongoing importance of racial equality. By making this event permanent, we would continue to inspire future generations to engage in conversations about social justice and equality, and to recognize the importance of standing up for what is right.

The event provides a meaningful connection to our history, bringing the legacy of Ruby Bridges to life in a way that is both educational and deeply personal for the students who participate. It also fosters a sense of community, as children, parents, teachers, and local leaders come together to walk in solidarity. This tradition not only benefits the students but also has a profound impact on the entire community.

I urge you to support <u>HB 2330</u> to make Nov 14th Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day (<u>RBWTSD in Kansas</u>) permanent, ensuring that it remains a cornerstone of our educational and civic culture for years to come.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of this important matter. I look forward to hearing from you and hope for your support.

### Warm regards,



## 

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