

Testimony to the House Committee on Education

NAME: Joseph Nicholas

TITLE: Private Citizen

EMAIL ADDRESS: joseph.h.nicholas@gmail.com

BILL NUMBER: HB 2330 Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Proponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written Only

DATE OF HEARING: February 17, 2025

Chairperson Estes and Members of the Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB 2330, which designates November 14 of each year as Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day in the state of Kansas.

Kansas holds a unique place in our nation's history as the home of *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, the landmark Supreme Court case that ended legal segregation in public schools. This decision paved the way for the courageous actions of Ruby Bridges, who, at just six years old, became a national symbol of the civil rights movement when she integrated William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans.

Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day is more than a symbolic gesture. It is an opportunity for students to engage in meaningful conversations about history, courage, and the ongoing work of ensuring equality and justice in our schools. It encourages students to reflect on how far we have come and how much work remains to be done in eliminating racism and bullying in our communities.

This bill aligns with Kansas' long-standing recognition of the importance of educational equity. The legislature has already honored Ruby Bridges through past resolutions, and codifying this day into law would reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that her story - and the broader fight for desegregation - remains a vital part of our state's educational narrative.

At a time when discussions about history and civil rights are increasingly being challenged and even censored, recognizing Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day sends a powerful message: that Kansas values truth, education, and the lessons we can learn from those who stood for justice.

I respectfully urge the committee to support HB 2330 and ensure that Kansas continues to honor its role in the fight for civil rights by recognizing Ruby Bridges' legacy each year.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Joseph Nicholas

10344 Cherokee Ln

Leawood, KS 66206

joseph.h.nicholas@gmail.com

Mindy Nickles
5th Grade Teacher
Lawrence, KS 66047
mindynickles@gmail.com
HB2330 - Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day
Proponent Testimony
February 17, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Mindy Nickles, and I teach 5th grade in Lawrence, Kansas. This year, I had the honor of serving on the committee that organized Quail Run Elementary's first-ever celebration of Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day. As part of the event, my students eagerly took part in the planning process and deepened their understanding of Ruby Bridges' story. The event was a tremendous success—so much so that my students still reference the lessons they learned.

When my class learned about HB 2330, many of them felt strongly about showing their support. Even with snow days disrupting our timeline, several students dedicated their free time in the classroom to finish their letters before today's hearing. These words come straight from the hearts and minds of 5th graders who believe in the importance of this bill.

I hope you find their voices as powerful as I do and vote YES on HB 2330.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If anyone feels compelled to respond to my 5th graders, you may reach me at melinda.nickles@usd497.org or my personal email above.

Sincerely,

Mindy Nickles

Dear Committeeperson,

Hi my name is Delaney I'm in Ms. Nickles 5th grade class at Quail Run Elementary, and my school really loved Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day but I guess you call it HB 2330. We really had fun with everything from walking to school to making posters and marching around the school.

Please make HB 2330 permanent. I and my school learned so much and would like to share it with future students, and continue to learn more. It was so much fun. We look forward to it next year so please don't let us down. Plus she was the first African American to go to an all-white school. Why shouldn't schools celebrate that? She is also such a good role model that we should look up to, but if we don't know she exists how could we look up to her? Well that was me until we celebrated Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day.

Thank you for even taking your time to read this. It means a lot to me that you even glimpsed at it. Please consider making it permanent and keeping the celebration alive. And I'm sure that if you liked this then you will like the rest of my classes too, and anyone else who did what we did.

Also here are some pictures from our school.



Dear Committee Members,

My name is Caia. I am in Ms. Nickles' 5th grade class, and I go to Quail Run Elementary in Lawrence, KS.

I am writing to you because I want the bill HB2330 to be passed. Ruby Bridges Walk to School day is a fun way to express diversity in Kansas. Ruby showed us the value in everyone and that every one deserves a chance at a fair education, and what better way to teach our youth how important it is for inclusion than a day dedicated to diversity and a past teacher of it?

Our youth deserves to know how important Ruby Bridges is in black history and have the chance to support that. It would not only be educational, but fun and remind all of us how important it is to work together so all of us have futures to look forward to. Because if we go back to our old ways, it could get that bad again. But Ruby reminds us that we need to stick together so all of us can get what we want and need in life.

Thank you for your time, and I encourage you to look back and see what difference a little girl could make.

Thank you again,

Caia

Dear Committee Members,

I am Hank. I live in Lawrence, KS and I go to Quail Run Elementary and I'm in Mrs Nickles 5th grade class.

I am writing to you because I think that you should make Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day permanent. She did a lot of things to make black people be able to go to school with white people. And made this world a much better place to be in. I think she deserves a special day to honor her for what she did.

I celebrated it when it was a temporary day and I thought it was fun and I think it needs a permanent day. I think she made this world a better place and made some people much nicer and kinder. So I encourage you to make ruby bridges walk to school day a permanent day for this holiday.

Thank you,

Hank

Dear committee members,

Hello committee members. My name is Sydney and I am in Mrs. Nickles' 5th grade class at Quail Run Elementary School in Lawrence, Kansas.

I am writing to you all because I think you should keep the house bill no. 2330 permanent because Ruby Bridges was a very important person in history and deserves to be recognized as such. Ruby did things in history such as be the first African American to go to an all white school. Which was and still is a big deal and should be celebrated and remembered for as long as possible.

Here is some more history and interesting facts about Ruby Bridges:

- She had to be accompanied into school by four U.S marshals
- Most families pulled their children out of school because they didn't want their children to be taught with a African American child
- She was born in Tylertown, Mississippi, 1954, September 8

Thank you for taking the time out of your day to read this letter about Ruby Bridges.

Thank you again,

Sydney

Dear Committeeperson,

Hi I'm Charlotte and I am in Mrs. Nickles 5th grade class from Quail Run. I am here to tell you why Ruby Bridges day should be celebrated on every November 14th.

It's an important day for people to learn about history. Ruby Bridges Day is really fun to celebrate because you can make posters for the Ruby Bridges Day and you can decorate the posters however you want. Every grade goes outside on the blacktop and finishes their posters and then at the end they get to make a lap around the school and show them off to the people walking and people take pictures of the posters.

Ruby Bridges Day is a good day to learn about history and when you learn about it you also can become kinder to others and treat people how you want to be treated no matter the skin tone a person has or what they believe or don't believe in. Ruby Bridges is brave. She can teach people to be brave and to never give up no matter what. Hope you let schools celebrate Ruby Bridges Day on every day it's celebrated on.

Thank you,

Charlotte

Dear Committeemembers,

Hello, my name is Kabryn and I'm in Mrs. Nickles' class at Quail Run Elementary in Lawrence, Kansas. I am speaking to you on this day because I would really appreciate it if you and your team members would make HB 2330 permanent.

November 14th was a very historical day at my school. You should make this day permanent because Ruby Bridges is a very important person for what she has done for our world. Ruby Bridges is a role model not just for my school but for any African American people. We would not be where we are today if it wasn't for Ruby Bridges.

Ruby Bridges Walk to School day was a day that showed how we appreciate what she has done for all of us. Ruby Bridges also should've deserved way better than what she got when she was a kid. I also believe that if Martin Luther King Jr. got to have his own day then so should Ruby Bridges. For What Ruby has been through we should have a day to celebrate what she has done.

Ruby Bridges also made a really big impact on Black People's lives. If Ruby Bridges made any impact for our whole world, we should have way more respect for her and for what she has done. Ruby deserves the best and I know that she would love for an elementary school to have a day that represents her. Ruby was only a little girl at six years old when she changed the world. Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you.

From,

Kabryn

Dear Committee Person

I am Kynli from Ms. Nickles 5th grade class,

I am writing about house bill 2330 to make Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day permanent because it's an important part of history.

Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day is important because it would show the bravery of Ruby and the difference she made. My next reason why Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day should be permanent is you learn about Ruby and what she did, what school was like for her and the difference she made. My 3rd reason why Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day is important is it teaches kids to stand up for what's right and that they can make a difference.

Ruby Bridges Walk to School day would also make something for kids to look forward to. For example ,my school made posters and walked around the school.

That's why house bill 2330 should be passed.

Kynli

Dear Committeeperson,

Hello, my name is Ellis. I am in Ms. Nickles 5th grade class at Quail Run Elementary school in Lawrence, Kansas. I am speaking on behalf of making November 14th Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day in Kansas. It would mean a lot to me and my other classmates if you and your team members could take the 2330 bill into consideration for making this bill permanent.

November 14th was a very historic event in history. Ruby Bridges fought until everything was fair. I also look up to Ruby because she made a difference. I also believe if kids get the day off for Martin Luther King Jr, then we should be able to look forward to something on Ruby Bridges Day. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and Ruby Bridges have made an impact in the lives of people of color.

At my school we all learned so much about Ruby Bridges when the other 5th graders wrote a very informal speech to give on the day of the parade. My school had a school-wide parade where every grade kindergarten to fifth made a poster to honor what Ruby Bridges has done to make equality for everyone. Then we walked around my school with our posters in our hands. Without Ruby bridges I would probably not be in the same school as some of my friends. Ruby Bridges did really make a difference in the world in 1960. At this time she made such a difference just at six.

Thank you for your time,

Ellis

Dear committeeperson,

Hello, I'm Anikyn. Please make HB 2330 permanent. This will be a good thing. We can learn about the courage Ruby had on that day. We want to learn about her every year, not just one year. What about the new kids like kindergartners or kids that come half way into the year? Please every year if it happens you guys will remember this letter.

Please, we will love this

Thanks,

Anikyn

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
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MARI-LYNN POSKIN
20TH DISTRICT

HB 2330 Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day
Proponent Written Only
February 17, 2025

Chair Estes and Member of the House Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in favor of passing out HB 2330, which makes November 14th Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day in Kansas. Ruby's inspiring story is inextricably tied to Kansas history, with the historic SCOTUS decision in *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education*, which declared that segregated schools are unconstitutional, 70 years ago. She became the most recognized icon of desegregation when she was the subject of Norma Rockwell's 1964 painting, *"The Problem We All Live With."*

Since 2021, Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day is celebrated nationwide for students to unite for a ["Day of Dialogue"](#) inspiring youth and creating positive change in our communities. I've seen this in action for Kansas students since becoming involved in 2023, when hundreds of students took part in seven Kansas counties. Those students were so inspired by Ruby's story of courage and resilience, that they [invited her to come to Kansas](#) in 2024, the 70th anniversary of *Brown V. Board*. She said YES! And on [November 14th, 2024](#), she shared her story in person with 1000 students at Washburn University and via livestream at ten schools across the entire state.

Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day ties our state's history with a living historical icon, making it more real and relevant to today's students. I know this session is moving at a very fast pace, so I urge you to consider the overwhelming support for HB 2330 in this hearing today, and take action to suspend the rules, work the bill, and pass it out favorably today, the last day to do so. Thank you!

Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mari-Lynn Poskin".

Mari-Lynn Poskin

From: [Marsha Ratzel](#)
To: [House Education](#)
Cc: [Susan Estes](#)
Subject: HB2330 Proponent testimony written only
Date: Saturday, February 15, 2025 12:06:42 PM

Marsha Ratzel

Representing myself, as a retired public school teacher of 25+ years

mratzelster@gmail.com

8007 Canterbury St, Leawood, KS 66206

HB2330 Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day

Proponent

February 17th, 2025

Thank you chairpersons, My name is Marsha Ratzel of Prairie Village, Kansas. I am here to speak for the passage of HB2330. I have witnessed the positive impacts this day has on children in school. I've seen this with my own eyes. As a volunteer for the past years at Quindaro Elementary School in Kansas City Kansas, I've seen the inspiration Ruby Bridges story and life have had on the 350+ student at that school. Each year they had a walk around the block to celebrate the day, wearing t-shirts, waving flags, riding bicycles, and remembering her story. The students have spoken quite enthusiastically about how they can be "Ruby Bridges" in their community.

History needs to come alive to be remembered.

It's important for every community to have heroes to look to and to celebrate. Plus Ruby Bridges was the centerpiece of the Brown v Board of Education case. Wouldn't it be important to the children of our state to realize what our state has done to bring along the civil rights of the entire country? We've played an important and this is one way to recognize that important justice we've done. What wonderfully easy and cost-effectient way to bring this model home to every Kansan. I urge you to model what the students at Quindaro Elementary have already discovered and pass this legislation.

Sincerely,

Marsha Ratzel

From: [Donna Rose-Heim](#)
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: pass HB 2330
Date: Monday, February 10, 2025 3:53:34 PM

Please meet the deadline of Monday, Feb 15, to have a hearing and pass of of the House Education Committee HB 2330. Let's make Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day permanent in KS.

Thank you for your help.

Working for a world where everyone is valued and included,

Donna Rose-Heim
816-535-0088



HB2330 Proponent testimony (written only)

William B. Rose-Heim, M.Div.

6617 West 101st Street

Overland Park, KS 66212

brh51500@gmail.com

816.617.7020

HB2330 Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day

Proponent

February 17th, 2025

Thank you, chairwoman and committee.

My name is William Rose-Heim, minister, consultant and USAF veteran, currently volunteering with an organization that works to help resettle refugees in the greater Kansas City metropolitan area. I support **HB 2330** – "permanently recognizing November 14 of each year designated as Ruby Bridges walk to school day in the state of Kansas. My wife and I and two of our children were present in 1997 for the 40th anniversary celebration of the integration of Central High School in Little Rock with the Governor and U.S. President presiding. We had an opportunity to meet in a special service with members of the Little Rock Nine. Our children appreciate the importance of remembering that we in the United States are committed to assuring that every child receives respect, protection, and the best public education we can provide.

Military service first impressed upon me the practical application of education about the full story of our nation's history. The 22nd Security Police Squadron was charged to provide security for (among other base assets) B-52 alert aircraft loaded with weapons of mass destruction. Among us skin colors ran the gamut from dark to light. We spoke English in a variety of dialects, some with the accents of first and second-generation immigrants. We did not all like each other. We certainly did not agree politically. We were bound by an oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and a mission to safeguard people, planes, and weapons of mass destruction. It helped that we all took training in diversity, equity and inclusion before it was known by those three words. Back then it was called Human Relations, and it was vital training for all of us who had to pull together well when it counted most. We never lost a weapon, a plane or a life we were to secure. Many of the children in our Kansas public schools will grow up to hold positions of grave responsibility. Passing HB 2330 will play a small but vital role in assuring that our children will be well equipped to serve and lead among all people.

From: [Rachel Russell](#)
Subject: Pass HB 2330
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:19:49 AM

Good morning!

I am writing to you as a proponent for HB 2330 to make November 14th Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day permanent in Kansas.

Thank you for your consideration!

Rachel Russell
Wyandotte County Resident

From: [Angie Scharnhorst](#)
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 Schmoie](#); [Mark Schreiber](#); [Megan Steele](#); [Jerry Stogsdill](#); [Valdenia Winn](#); [Dawn Wolf](#); [Mari-Lynn Poskin](#)
Subject: Ruby Bridges Bill - HB 2330
Date: Monday, February 10, 2025 2:50:21 PM

I'm writing to encourage you to get this bill passed out of the House Education Committee by Feb 17th. An annual event encourages students to learn state and national history and participate in the healthy activity of walking to school. What a great thing!

Angie Scharnhorst
6300 W. 100th St.
Overland Park, KS 66212

Dr. Michael Schumacher, Superintendent

Shawnee Mission School District

shellytrenholm@smsd.org

HB 2330 Ruby Bridges

Proponent

Written

February 17, 2025



SHAWNEE MISSION

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Proponent Written Testimony on House Bill 2330
House Education Committee
February 17, 2025
Dr. Michael Schumacher
Superintendent, Shawnee Mission School District

Chair Estes and Members of the Committee:

The Shawnee Mission School District (SMSD) wishes to express its support for HB 2330, which would designate November 14th of each year as Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day in Kansas.

The Shawnee Mission School District is dedicated to providing a rigorous, well-rounded education to all students. The District's strategic plan, and legislative platform, highlight "the need for students to develop personal resilience and the interpersonal skills to become engaged, empathetic members of the local and global community." Ruby Bridges is one of many powerful people and stories we share with our students at Shawnee Mission as an incredible example of resiliency, engagement, empathy and courage – traits vital to the development of our students.

We know that strong public schools are the foundation for the success of our communities, our state, and our democracy. HB 2330 provides an opportunity to honor the history and stories of those courageous individuals who have gone before us to ensure that all of our children—no matter their race, ethnicity, gender, class, or background—can be inspired by, and learn from, each other.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Dr. Michael Schumacher, Superintendent
Shawnee Mission School District
913-993-6200

From: [Christie Schwermann](#)
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 Schmoie](#); [Mark Schreiber](#); [Megan Steele](#); [Jerry Stogsdill](#); [Valdenia Winn](#); [Dawn Wolf](#)
Subject: Please pass Bill HB 2330
Date: Monday, February 10, 2025 6:44:40 PM

Make Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day permanent in Kansas!

Thank you,

**Christie Schwermann
Leawood, KS**



Kathleen Smith
Director of Culture & Belonging
Olathe Public Schools
14090 S. Black Bob Rd.
Olathe, Kansas 66062
kasmith@olatheschools.org
Phone: (913) 780-7784
HB2330 Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day
February 17, 2025

This written testimony is in support of HB 2330 to designate November 14 of each year as Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day in the State of Kansas. As the Director of Culture & Belonging for Olathe Public Schools it is my passion to allow students to experience opportunities that enrich their lives by learning from our past, present and potential future. This past year on November 14th I was able to take 50 students from Olathe North and 4 BSU students from Olathe East, Olathe South and Olathe West to attend Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day event to hear from civil rights iconic leader Ruby Bridges herself.

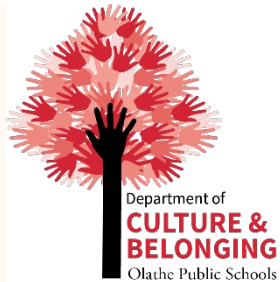
These students were able to see the growth of Kansas schools through a civil right pioneer's eyes 70 years after the ruling of Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka. They traveled to Topeka and learned about how they now benefit from the landmark decision by attending desegregated public schools. This was something that students mentioned that they took for granted until realizing the impactful history that ultimately changed their lives for the better.

As each student listened to Ruby Bridges explain her truth they realized the importance of her courageous steps into inclusive education for all. Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day is not only a day of remembrance of the past it is a guiding light of hope for all students of the privilege that they now have of the diverse friends and educators they now see every day.

The importance of HB 2330 for the state of Kansas is it is imperative for all. We must be reminded of the past and what our ancestors have experienced and learned. We must always strive to improve our great state with compassion, understanding and the hope for a better tomorrow for all of our citizens.

Kathleen Smith, M.Ed.
Director of Culture & Belonging
Olathe Public Schools

"In diversity there is beauty and there is strength." – Maya Angelou



From: [Jennifer Spong](#)
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: Ruby Bridges
Date: Thursday, February 13, 2025 1:23:32 PM

Please pass HB 2330 out of committee before the turnaround date of February 17. Show Kansans that you can be as brave as a little girl named Ruby.

Sent from my iPad

HB2330 Proponent Testimony

Shannee Steinmeier

Oak Park – Carpenter Elementary PTA – Legislative Chair

shanneesoo@gmail.com

HB2330 Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day

Proponent

February 17th, 2025

To whom it may concern:

Ruby Bridges is an important figure in our modern-day history. Her story is one that I read to my girls annually, as a reminder of what a privilege it is we can go to school, unafraid. My three girls, all elementary aged, love school. In fact, for a couple of them, it's their favorite place to be. To imagine a world where some of them may not be able to attend, or where their presence would be protested, is unfathomable.

And it's exactly that reason why I read them Ruby's story.

My family is of mixed heritage. I am half Korean and so my girls take on various resemblance of me. I grew up being teased and mocked for the color of my skin and the slant of my eyes, and this was just in the 90s. Unfortunately, these things still occur. Maybe it's not as overt, but judgements and comments are still made.

We cannot forget history because to do so will be to forget the progress we have made, and the work still left to do. Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day is an excellent way to remember and encourage us all to continue the work.

In conjunction with the City of Overland Park, the Johnson County Library and the Oak Park-Carpenter PTA, we were able to host a walk and read for all 500 students at the elementary school in the neighboring park where the students could read about Ruby Bridges and her work she has done in her adult life. It led to some conversations I'm not sure these students would necessarily have had otherwise. It was a wonderful way to commemorate Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day, honor the past and further encourage anti-racism and hate.

These are lessons I wish I would have learned in elementary school. I'm grateful my children have the chance to learn it now, and that we have an opportunity to walk alongside them to make this world a less prejudiced place. Please continue to honor Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day.

Thank you,

Shannee Steinmeier

From: [Emily Steinwart](#)
Subject: Ruby Bridges Bill
Date: Monday, February 10, 2025 4:18:29 PM

Good afternoon,

My name is Emily Steinwart and I am a resident of Overland Park, KS. I am writing to ask you to pass HB 2330 out of committee. This is such an important piece of not just our state's history, but that of our nation. It is something we should be proud of and celebrating. Please pass this to make Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day permanent in Kansas.

Thank you,

Emily Steinwart



Written-Only Proponent Testimony on HB 2330 - Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day in Kansas
By Dr. Anna Stubblefield, Superintendent of Schools
Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools USD 500
anna.stubblefield@kckps.org

February 17, 2025

Chair Estes and Members of the House Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2330, which seeks to designate November 14 of each year as Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day in Kansas. On behalf of Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools (KCKPS), I am honored to express our strong support for this legislation, which promotes the recognition of a pivotal moment in American history and reinforces the values of fairness, education, and resilience among our students.

Recognizing November 14 as Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day offers Kansas schools a meaningful opportunity to engage students in discussions about civil rights and the importance of access to quality education for everyone.

KCKPS serves a diverse student body, with over 60 languages spoken throughout our district. We are dedicated to fostering an environment where every student feels safe, valued, and empowered to succeed. HB 2330 aligns with our mission by encouraging students to reflect on history and recognize their role in shaping a more just and harmonious society. Designating this day statewide will give educators a platform to teach important lessons about perseverance, courage, and civic responsibility, while also promoting community participation through symbolic walks and educational activities.

Additionally, this legislation supports social-emotional learning and engagement beyond the classroom. Many students and families already participate in similar observances, and a formal statewide designation would strengthen these efforts, uniting schools across Kansas in a shared commitment to progress and inclusion.

We urge the committee to advance HB 2330 and affirm Kansas' dedication to acknowledging the historical significance of Ruby Bridges' contributions. By adopting this measure, our state will send a strong message about the value of education and the importance of honoring those who paved the way for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration. We appreciate your leadership and support in making Kansas a state that honors history and promotes student engagement in civic life.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Anna Stubblefield
Superintendent of Schools, KCKPS USD 500

From: [Patricia Suriel](#)
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 Schmoie](#); [Mark Schreiber](#); [Megan Steele](#); [Jerry Stogsdill](#); [Valdenia Winn](#); [Dawn Wolf](#); [Mari-Lynn Poskin](#)
Subject: pass out HB 2330 before the turnaround deadline
Date: Monday, February 10, 2025 5:32:59 PM

I am not from Kansas but I want you all to know how impactful Ruby Bridges' story and her Walk to School Day is to Kansas.

After all, it would never have been possible without Brown v. Topeka Board of Education!

Thank you for your hard work for making our country safe for all children.

--



EDUCATE • EMPOWER • EMPLOY

Patricia Thorndike Suriel

She/Her/Hers

Founder and Executive Director

Mariposa DR Foundation

PO Box 425

Ithaca, NY 14851



[READ OUR PUBLICATIONS ONLINE](#)

- a) Haley Tanuvasa
- b) KCPS
- c) haley.tanuvasa@kckps.org
- d) HB2330 Ruby Bridges Day
- e) Proponent
- f) February 17th, 2025

Ruby Bridges' story is so impactful to our schools here in Kansas City, Kansas. We love having the Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day.

Please pass HB 2330 to make November 14 Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day in Kansas!

--

Haley Tanuvasa, LMSW
Behavioral Health Social Worker
New Chelsea Elementary-KCKPS
2500 Wood Ave
Kansas City, Ks 66104
(913) 627-5000 ext. 5059
Work Cell: (913) 933-2412

New Chelsea's BHT Referral Link:

<https://forms.gle/dtnsbnQUihi6MDpC9>



PO Box 654
Lawrence, KS 66044

Rabbi Moti Rieber, Executive Director
Rev. Dr. Annie Ricker, Board Chair

www.kansasinterfaithaction.org
KIFA@kansasinterfaithaction.org

(913) 232-2336

**Testimony (Written Only) in Support of HB 2330, Designating November 14 of each year as Ruby Bridges walk to school day in the state of Kansas.
by Rev. Dr. Mandy Todd, Director of Engagement & Development
House Committee on Education, Rep. Susan Estes, Chair**

February 17, 2025

Mme. Chair, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2330, which designates November 14 as *Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day* in the state of Kansas. My name is Rev. Dr. Mandy Todd, and I am a resident of Lindsborg, where I serve as pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church. I am submitting testimony on behalf of Kansas Interfaith Action. As a Kansan and as a person of faith I am in full support of this bill.

Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day is dedicated to telling the story of a six-year-old little girl who showed uncommon bravery in desegregating her school. The establishment of *Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day* in Kansas will encourage communities across our state to reflect on the ongoing fight against racism. From the Free-State movement of the 1800's, to the landmark *Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka* ruling, to the consideration of this bill today, Kansas continues to affirm its commitment to the fight against racism and bullying as well as its obligation to ensure that all students have access to an equal education. The adoption of this bill will send a strong message that Kansas values its history, acknowledges past injustices, and desires a future where all Kansans are treated with dignity and respect. Plus, walking to school is good for you!

As a person of faith, it is deeply important to me that people everywhere are treated with dignity and respect. God delights in the diversity of creation. There is no place where the beauty and diversity of God's creation is more apparent than in our young people. I give thanks for the opportunity for Kansas children to learn together in rich, diverse communities.

I respectfully urge you to support HB 2330, ensuring *Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day* becomes an annual tradition of rededicating ourselves to following her example and giving thanks for the diversity of Kansas schools.

From: [Kristin Wing](#)
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: HB 2330 Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day
Date: Monday, February 10, 2025 5:01:42 PM

As a Kansas resident, I am writing to encourage you to support HB 2330 which will Designate November 14 of each year as Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day in Kansas. Civil rights icon Ruby Bridges demonstrates the values Kansans can all agree on – fair treatment of all citizens, racial equality and paving the way for children to learn about our history.

Please support this bill. It's important.

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Kristin Wing
Marketer - Community Volunteer
913-485-9655
Gift of Life KC
Delta Gamma Sorority
Greater KC Women's Political Caucus

From: [Kim Wright](#)
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: YES HB 2330
Date: Monday, February 10, 2025 5:22:43 PM

Please vote YES in favor of HB 2330 to support Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day!

Kim Wright

913-626-5220