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HB 2428
Opponent of Bill
Oral In-Person Testimony
2/3/2026

Esteemed Chairwoman Estes and Members of the Committee on Education,

I speak as a private citizen and taxpayer with 13 years of full-time higher education teaching experience in Kansas at a teaching focused institution. I oppose HB 2428 for many reasons, but I want to focus on just one here: the message that this bill sends to our college students in Kansas.

I understand that one intent of this bill is to provide a state sanctioned way for any college student at a public university in Kansas to opt out of any DEI-CRT content for the entirety of their time as an undergraduate student. If I am right that this is one intent, then this sends a condescending message to our students. I say that because our students can and should be trusted to make up their own minds about DEI-CRT content if they are exposed to it in a university setting.

I have taught Philosophy of Law now for eight years. I teach CRT and its historical antecedent Critical Legal Studies (CLS) in my Philosophy of Law course. On the first day of class, we talk about how the course is going to cover CLS and CRT—I mention that one really couldn't cover contemporary Philosophy of Law without covering CLS and CRT. And I mention that we won't just cover these theories, we will be *critical* of them. Critical thinking is a paramount aspect of any philosophy class (and most other university classes), and these theories are not above the fray in my class in terms of us engaging in a critical analysis of them. This brings me back to my original point: if the state provides an avenue in which a student can opt out of any DEI-CRT content on their way to graduation, such students may then not understand DEI-CRT, may not be able to engage discourse about DEI-CRT, and so may not be able to make up their own minds (in an informed way) about DEI-CRT. This bill, in short, sends the message to our students that we don't trust that they can come to their own view about DEI-CRT. It sends the message that we have to protect them from DEI-CRT. That is precisely the wrong message to send to our university students about controversial subjects. And it is in the university setting where controversial subjects have always been discussed.