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House of Representatives

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Kristey S. Williams
Representative, 77th District

Proponent Oral Testimony in Support of HB 2428: the Freedom from Indoctrination Act
Presented to the House/Kansas Senate Education Committee

Feb. 3, 2026

Madame Chair Estes and Members of the Education Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony in support of HB 2428, the Freedom from Indoctrination Act. This bill ensures fairness and the proper role of government, including our colleges. With a wide array of studies showing as many as 90% of institutional instructors and professors self-survey as “liberal,” it remains imperative to promote a diversity of ideas, rather than promote a favored political or ideological viewpoint especially within environments with this level of disproportion in viewpoint.

Kansas has long recognized that public institutions should serve all Kansans, regardless of political belief, religion, or ideology. HB 2428 reinforces a foundational principle: state resources should not be used to compel belief, promote ideological conformity, or stifle or discourage dissenting viewpoints.

This legislation does not prohibit the teaching of history, civics, or difficult topics. Instead, it draws an important line between teaching students *what people believe, what policies exist* and *what debates occur*, and requiring students or employees to affirm, adopt, or participate in ideological positions as a condition of education, employment, or advancement.

True academic freedom includes the ability for faculty and students to explore ideas and question ideas without coercion into ideological thinking or participation. Ideas should be examined and debated, but beliefs should not be “mandated” through required political courses not directly related to the intended major. This bill prevents compelled speech.

We do not fund institutions to serve as vehicles for ideological training or political activism. HB 2428 helps restore public confidence by ensuring that taxpayer dollars are used for instruction, not indoctrination. This bill allows for teaching controversial subjects, open inquiry, and the examination of history and public policy. It prohibits mandatory ideological statements, required belief affirmations, and any Institutional pressure to conform to a particular political or social doctrine. The Freedom from Indoctrination Act codifies what most Americans can agree upon -- public education should empower students to think, not tell them what to think. HB 2428 protects students, educators, and taxpayers alike, and strengthens trust in Kansas’ public institutions without undermining academic inquiry. Thank you for your consideration.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kristey S. Williams'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rep. Kristey Williams
Chair of Select Committee of Government Oversight
Vice Chair of Appropriations
Majority Caucus Chair