

In-person Proponent Testimony on HB 2510  
Amy Cawvey

Chairperson and members of the committee,

My name is Amy Cawvey, and I am from Lansing, Kansas. I serve as the Kansas Chairman for the National School Board Coalition, and I am also a former school board member for USD 469 in Lansing. In those roles, I have worked with and now mentor school board members across our state.

I am here today in strong support of HB 2510 because this bill protects something fundamental to representative government: the ability of each elected school board member to independently serve their constituents to the best of their ability.

HB 2510 is important because it preserves the autonomy of individual board members when it comes to training and professional development. Kansas statute is clear that no one board member holds more power than another. Yet in practice, when training decisions are made collectively, that balance can be undermined.

Every county and every school district in Kansas is unique. Board members bring different backgrounds, experiences, and needs to the table. The training and support that best equips one member may not be the same for another. This bill recognizes that reality and allows each board member to seek training that aligns with their responsibilities and the needs of the voters who elected them.

Over the past five years, the range and diversity of school board training opportunities, both in Kansas and nationwide, has expanded significantly. Board members now have access to webinars, issue-specific trainings, leadership programs, and specialized education that did not exist before. HB 2510 ensures that board members are not limited to a single option when better or more relevant training is available elsewhere.

During my time on the board, votes on state association membership were often split 4–3. As a result, three board members were unable to pursue training that best suited their needs. Because of this, I personally paid out of pocket for out-of-state trainings, webinars, and additional education so I could better serve my constituents. Had HB 2510 been in place, I would have maintained the autonomy to make those decisions without unnecessary barriers.

In closing, I ask you to support HB 2510 and the locally elected school board members who already serve their communities on a volunteer basis. This bill respects their role, preserves equal authority among board members, and empowers each elected official to choose the training and support they believe is necessary to best represent their constituents.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I respectfully ask for your support of HB 2510.  
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