



Kansas PTA
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Mary Sinclair, PhD, Advocacy Team
On behalf of Kansas PTA, Vikkie Mullins, President
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[HB 2142](#). Mandating third party review process of bullying complaints by any person.

Opponent. This is a policy and practice issue for local control.

Remote Testimony. House Education Committee
Hearing. **Tuesday, February 10, 1:30 pm**, Room 218-N

Michelle Sims, Committee Assistant
785-296-7388, h.Education@house.ks.gov
Room 286-N, State Capitol Building

Honorable Chair Estes and Committee Members,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to third party oversight of local school district operations. Kansas PTA supports the work of districts to provide for a safe learning environment and to manage bullying prevention programs, including student complaints.

This bill raises several concerns, **conflicting with the informed governance and authority of locally elected school boards** and district leadership ([KS PTA Legislative Priority 1](#)). This bill:

- Usurps the authority of local school boards and the votes of the patrons who elected them to office, who are already tasked with serving as neutral arbitrators of appeals.
- Puts undo administrative burden and liability onto districts, by extending eligible complaints well beyond students, parents or staff by holding the district responsible to “any person”.
- Conflicts with data privacy protections for students and confidentiality of all parties involved in the complaint.
- Unfunded mandate, with no input from school districts about potential budgetary impact.

Note, the [Kansas Constitution, Article VI](#), Sections 2 and 5, grants the following authority to boards of education:

- **State board of education** ... shall have general supervision of public schools, educational institutions and all the educational interests of the state, except educational functions delegated by law to the state board of regents.
- **Local public schools** under the general supervision of the state board of education shall be maintained, developed and operated by locally elected boards.

When state or federal legislative bodies / entities, other than the State Board of Education, seek to mandate the operations of local school districts, unfunded or funded, these policies likely overstep the authority of locally elected school board members as defined in the state constitution.

Local control refers to this authority, autonomy, and legal power vested in local entities (such as city governments and school boards) to make decisions, enact regulations, and manage operations. Like all democratically elected bodies at the federal, state and local levels, decisions are made by majority rule determined at 50% or more of the body's vote, or some higher threshold.

Our public schools are the heart of Kansas communities, serving 90% of school age youth. Our teachers and administrators are committed to preparing all kids to thrive in work and in life. Creating opportunities for every child to engage and be successful serves to strengthen the viability of a thriving Kansas future.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge committee members, on behalf of the Kansas PTA, to vote no on HB 2142. Respect the authority and knowledge that Kansas voters place in their locally elected school board members.

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Cc: Vikki Mullins, Kansas PTA President
Angie Gunion, VP of Advocacy
Devin Wilson, Legislative Liaison

THE PTA POSITION

Kansas PTA is a nonpartisan association that promotes the welfare of children and youth. The PTA does not endorse any candidate or political party. Rather, we advocate for policies and legislation that affect Kansas youth in alignment with our legislative platform and priorities. [PTA mission and purpose](#) have remained the same since our inception over 100 years ago, focused on facilitating every child's potential and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.