

February 10, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for receiving my testimony on HB2348. I am writing in opposition to this bill. Although I am a faculty member at a Kansas institution, and I value tenure for all of the reasons I am sure my colleagues will articulate, I would like to speak to you today as a mom. I am the mother of two kids. My oldest child is 15 years old, and in a few short years, he will be headed to college. I would love to send him to a university in Kansas. Right now, I have the security of knowing that Kansas universities can hire world-class faculty who are at the top of their teaching career. Today, the national reputations of these institutions, collectively and individually, assure me that my son would receive a quality education.

However, if this bill passes, and faculty can no longer count upon tenure as an active, robust, and reciprocal agreement between themselves and the university, the status of our universities will decline. The impact on Kansas institutions will be dramatic, as it has been elsewhere when faculty fear they will lose their rights. Kansas universities will no longer be able to attract top faculty, and they may not be able to retain the faculty they already employ.

As a parent, I want the best for my child. I want him to attend a university staffed by faculty who are secure enough to devote their energies to teaching rather than searching for their next position, faculty who win grants to conduct research in their field who may serve as mentors, faculty who been drawn to Kansas by its commitment to higher education.

If HB2348 passes, many parents just like me will face the necessity of sending our children out of state to receive the best university education. As I am sure you know, the students who leave will most likely not return to live in Kansas, nor build their careers here. For these reasons, in addition to many others, I register my opposition to HB2348.

Thank you,

Kerry Wynn  
Topeka, KS

*The ideas expressed in this statement are mine as an individual and do not represent my employer.*