



February 3, 2026

Chairwoman Erickson, Vice Chairman Thomas, Ranking Minority Member Sykes,
and members of this honorable committee,

The following consists of my client's testimony regarding this important
matter. Thank you for your attention to this issue, and please do not hesitate to
contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

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Testimony of Brianne Vinson Regarding Marshall Elementary School's Unconstitutional Viewpoint Discrimination, Violation of Students' First Amendment Rights, and Interference with Parental Rights

Chairwoman Erickson, Vice Chairman Thomas, Ranking Minority Member Sykes, and members of this honorable committee, my name is Brianne Vinson. I'm here testifying in support of this bill because my daughter and her sixth grade classmates were censored for expressing their religious and political views at Marshall Elementary, a school in Eureka. As a result of this discrimination and the schools response, I had to withdraw all three of my children from the school.

On October 28th, the guidance counselor gave students an assignment called "Find Your Voice." It should have been an empowering exercise. Instead, it became a lesson in censorship.

When students named Charlie Kirk and Donald Trump as their role models, the counselor was visibly uncomfortable, refused to allow their names on the board, and shouted that one of them was "not a hero." She furiously refused and announced that political and religious figures were banned from the discussion.

But here's what made it discrimination: other individuals were allowed as role models. Controversial athletes who engage in political activism were permitted. Only conservative political figures and religious figures - including God- were excluded.

My daughter was forced to erase her classmates choice and enforce this censorship. The impact on these children was immediate and the message was clear: "Find Your Voice" really meant "Find the Voice Your Teacher Approves Of."

But it gets worse. After meeting with the principal and counselor, the next day they address the sixth grade class. Multiple students, including my daughter, reported that the principal told them that in the future, they should bring concerns to school officials first - not to their parents. I questioned the principal about this statement, she suggested that I homeschool my children.

When I requested that my children be excused from this guidance counselor's class the school initially put them in detention during guidance class- punishing them for my objection to unconstitutional conduct. Then my daughter was sent to class anyway, despite my clear instruction otherwise. When my husband questioned them, they claimed it was a "misunderstanding." Finally, they told my husband, pursuant to their attorney, they would no longer accommodate us at all.

I presented these concerns at a school board meeting in December. The board went into executive session for five minutes. No public response. No corrective action. Nothing changed.

Due to the constitutional violations, I have filed federal discrimination complaints against the school with the DOJ and Department of Education.

This isn't a war on teachers. It is a call for accountability, transparency, and respect for families.

This bill will protect future student's rights to express their political and religious viewpoints in the same manner as other students, while giving families legal recourse.

This isn't about one counselor's bad day. I went to the principal, she defended it. I went to the school board, they ignored it. This is about a system that punishes students for their beliefs, that tells children to hide concerns from their parents, and that retaliates when families speak up.

I fully support this bill so that Kansas families do not fall victim to the same egregious conduct my family has been forced to endure. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Brianne Vinson