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2/11/2026

**Opponent Testimony for SB 381**  
Senate Committee on Education  
Cathy Hopkins and Beryl New, Legislative Liaisons  
Kansas State Board of Education

Chair Erickson and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony regarding Senate Bill 381 related to instruction on communist and socialist regimes and requiring students to pass an American civics examination to graduate from high school.

The State Board of Education has established history, government, and social studies standards that prepare students to be informed, thoughtful, engaged citizens as they enrich their communities, state, nation, world, and themselves. The State Board would like to specifically note that the standards already include recommendations for instruction on topics including communism and socialism.

The State Board of Education has also revised the graduation requirements for the class of 2028 (freshman class of 2024) to emphasize the importance of skills that ensure success after high school, including two postsecondary assets. The State Board requests that the Legislature allow for the continued implementation of these requirements without additional changes.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our testimony,

Cathy Hopkins and Beryl New