



Testimony to House Education Committee
HB 2179 — Due process for terminating teachers' contracts

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Chairman Araund and Members of the Education Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 2179. Please understand that I am not opposed to teacher's having due process. The concept of due process is fundamental to the American way of life.

We are opposed to HB 2179 because it is not necessary. As I understand it, HB 2179 would reinstate language changed in HB 2506, which was passed in 2014. Contrary to the hype that surrounded the passage of HB 2506, the law does not eliminate due process for teacher as was so falsely reported and misunderstood. It simply put control of due process back in the hands of local school boards – making due process a local issue and following a basic Kansas tenant regarding public education, that being local control. We believe that when decisions are made closest to where those decisions impact, the better.

Local school boards control how to spend over \$6 billion per year on education. They decide who gets hired, how much teachers are paid, fringe benefits, the number of days to be worked, schedules and so on. No one seems to have a problem with that, nor should they. We entrust local school districts to make decisions on things like curriculum and facilities. No one cries for less local control – however, that is exactly what would happen if HB 2179 is passed.

Thank you the time and consideration.