

Proponent HB 2081 Future KTOY Scholarship Program

Cindy Couchman
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HB 2081 Future KTOY Scholarship Program
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To the House Education Committee:

My name is Cindy Couchman and I am the 2009 Kansas Teacher of the Year and a 30 year education veteran; most importantly I am the mom of two boys, one of which just graduated with a teaching degree.

I am writing in support of HB 2018. There is a crisis with a shortage of teachers. As a superintendent the past 3 years, I can attest to the very few applicants we are seeing apply. Encouraging students to major in education by reducing their cost is a wonderful idea. Allowing the Commissioner and previous Kansas Teachers of the Year to determine the recipients will allow them to see what fields need to be prioritized for scholarships based on vacancies.

The state has an opportunity to lead others in this front. With the state leadership, it would allow local districts to encourage businesses to invest in future teachers as well.

Sincerely,

Cindy Couchman, National Board Certified Teacher AYA Mathematics
2009 Kansas Teacher of the Year
2009 National Finalist Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Math Teaching
2010 Kansas State University Alumni Fellow
2012 Lowell Milken Fellow
2014 National Teachers Hall of Fame
2021 Kansas Confidence in Education Award
Superintendent, Buhler USD #313