



MainStream Coalition
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Testimony to House Committee on K-12 Education Budget
Chair, Rep. Kristey Williams
Hearing: Monday, March 18, 2019

Position – OPPOSE HB 2395

Chairwoman Williams, and Members of the Committee,

The MainStream Coalition is a non-partisan education and advocacy organization that engages individuals to advocate for good governance, quality public education, healthy communities, and sustainable fiscal policy in Kansas. We urge our members and supporters to do more than vote.

MainStream strongly recommends the committee oppose passage of HB 2395. This bill, presented as a compromise in exchange for fully funding schools to the letter of the Kansas Constitution, is a compilation of measures that would hurt public education in Kansas.

MainStream maintains that it is the Constitutional duty of the State of Kansas to fully fund public education, as determined by the people of Kansas, and adjudicated by the Kansas Supreme Court. We reject the idea that there can or should be negotiation on that subject. Fund schools first.

But to the measures presented in this bill, they at turns:

- Give public tax money to private or parochial schools.
- Take the Constitutional authority to set curriculum and other matters away from the State Board of Education.
- Appropriate or demand funds for specific programs to the detriment of education as a whole.
- Abrogate the right of school districts to seek redress.
- Make changes to education funding already in statute.

This bill appears to be designed to throw up obstacles and confuse constituents, and was presented at a time when many education activists were away from their home school districts on Spring Break vacations.

We urge the committee to see through the naked politics of this bill, and return to a clear and transparent approach to making our schools better. Fund public education, then consider policy changes on their own merit, not bundled together in a haphazard omnibus of an education bill.

Thank you,

Brandi Fisher
Executive Director of the MainStream Coalition

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About MainStream

Founded in 1993, the MainStream Coalition is an advocacy group for moderate political views regardless of party. Our members do more than vote.