

Testimony before House K-12 Budget Committee  
HB 2513– relating to testing, etc. and student privacy  
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Written testimony in support  
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January 25, 2022

Madam Chairman and members of the Committee

On behalf of the Kansas Policy Institute, it is my pleasure to offer written testimony in support of HB 2513.

It is unfortunate that the status of public education has reached the point where there is so much distrust and concern over what is being taught and what efforts are being made to shape the values, attitudes and beliefs of students that transcend the traditional role and mission of public schools to educate. While it may be argued that this phenomenon is not occurring everywhere in our system of public education, the evidence is overwhelming that the phenomenon not only exists but is increasing in frequency and breadth.

The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) recognizes the critical role parents should and do play in their children’s educations and, to that end, requires transparency in what the schools do. Unfortunately, the spirit of this ESSA requirement is often misunderstood if not ignored. HB 2513 represents a reasonable and wholly understandable step toward empowering students and their parents and, more importantly, protecting their rights to not be labeled, judged or indoctrinated under the guise of “education”.

We have introduced on the Senate side legislation which would create curriculum transparency (SB 363) and HB 2513 represents a natural and welcome companion piece to that effort.