

Press Release

for immediate release

January 20, 2017

Topeka - The Supreme Court of the State of Kansas today affirmed a lower court ruling that Senate Substitute for House Bill 2506 did not violate the Kansas Constitution's one-subject rule. The court also found that KNEA has standing to file suit for its members on issues such as this. The complaint brought to the court by KNEA was one focused on a procedural argument.

In 2014, HB 2506 was passed in the dark of night and contained policy attacks against educators. One such attack was a provision stripping non-probationary teachers of their right to due process hearings in cases of dismissal from employment.

Today's decision by the Supreme Court of Kansas focused on the question of whether this policy attack was permissible under the state's one-subject rule. That rule states, "no bill shall contain more than one subject, except appropriation bills and bills for revision or codification of statutes." The court found that HB 2506 was an education bill and that all provisions within the bill were related to education. In no way should today's decision be viewed as reflective of the court's opinion regarding the underlying due process protections formerly afforded non-probationary teachers.

KNEA will continue to pursue all avenues including potential legal remedies as well as legislative action to restore statutory due process rights for non-probationary teachers in Kansas. We believe that this fundamental right enables professional educators to advocate fully for their students without fear of punitive reprisal. Further, due process protection serves to make teaching in Kansas an attractive proposition along with fair compensation and benefits, a stable KPERS system, and the right to have a say in their own working conditions through collective bargaining.

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