



Making public schools great for every child.

KANSAS NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION / 715 SW 10TH AVENUE / TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1686

Bad Policy, Hurts Kids *Legislature Forgoes Clean Funding Bill*

Topeka- Kansas public school students may notice teachers who look a little tired today after a long weekend fighting for the best interest of our students, but we are tireless. Our members, teachers, parents, administrators, school board members, and elected officials who support public education in Kansas “raised their hands” for public education even as some legislators saw fit to attack the profession. Kansas NEA wants to assure its members we will always support them as we move forward together to fight for Kansas students.

TO BE VERY CLEAR, KNEA has been unwavering in our desire for the Kansas Legislature to pass a CLEAN funding bill that would restore resources and funding to public schools. KNEA members and supporters appreciate the steps this bill takes towards meeting the Supreme Court mandated equity declaration for funding Kansas public schools.

Governor Brownback and the special interest groups he serves prevailed. For now. Those very groups who speak of government transparency and a support for Kansas children chose the wee hours of the night on a weekend to slip policy amendments into this bill. Under the cover of darkness, they thought Kansas teachers would simply “go quietly into that good night.” They didn’t. Over 500 teachers from throughout the state took up the cause and were joined by hundreds of other supporters in the statehouse.

Many Kansas students spend more time with dedicated teachers in classrooms and schools throughout this state than any other adult in their life from week to week. This bill, Governor Brownback’s bill- effectively seeks to silence those teachers and opens the classroom door to people without background or training on how to do what our teachers know best. Teach kids.

KNEA teachers proved this weekend that they will work tirelessly for their rights and their student rights. Regardless of efforts to diminish their voice and profession, public school teachers will not waiver. Nor, will we bend to special interests. ***As KNEA President, Karen Godfrey commented, “Regardless of efforts to diminish our ability to advocate for the best interest of our students, teachers will not waver in our support of kids or our profession. Caring about kids is what we do, it is who we are, it is in our DNA.”***

Today, we are asking teachers and public education supporters throughout the state to do the following:

1. Email the Governor and your local representatives and tell them that you support a clean education funding bill and that this bill with policy amendments, hurts schools, hurts students, and hurts teachers.
2. Get active. Donate your time to a campaign to vote for pro-student, pro-public education candidates during this election cycle.

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