



Making public schools great for every child.

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

KNEA Legal Challenge of HB 2506

Topeka- In October of 2013, KNEA celebrated its 150 year anniversary in service to Kansas public school educators, support professionals, and most importantly the students our members serve. As the new year approached- and with it the Gannon school funding case in the Supreme Court- Kansas teachers, parents, and administrators called repeatedly for a clean **restoration** of equitable and adequate funding for our public schools. Calls were made to representatives throughout the state by concerned citizens and **KNEA President, Karen Godfrey wrote open letters to Governor Brownback imploring him to promote a clean funding bill.** In his state of the state address, the Governor said, “we should listen to those who are closest to Kansas students, their teachers.” Sadly, the Governor has instead repeatedly ignored Kansas teachers and was absent when his allies in the Kansas legislature seized what they thought was an opportunity to advance harmful policy. The clean funding bill so many had called for was instead a policy-laden attack on teachers, schools and students.

Kansas NEA members have and will continue to express a desire for all Kansans to “raise a hand for public schools.” Although limited, HB 2506 does restore some funding in some districts and this is both welcome and not a target of this lawsuit. Today’s announcement of legal action is not intended to weigh the merits for or against the policy amendments. **Teachers, parents, community leaders and administrators from throughout the state have been clear in regards to the negative impacts of these policies.** Instead, our legal challenge led by KNEA General Counsel David Schauer will address questions relative to the legislative processes that led to the passage of HB 2506 and its legal repercussions.

Key Points of KNEA legal challenge of HB 2506:

- We believe that the due process-stripping parts of the bill were enacted by an improper procedure and that they improperly deprive teachers of a basic expectation of fairness in termination decisions.
- Lawsuit to be filed in Shawnee County District Court before the end of June 2014.
- This legal challenge will not include specific funding portions of HB 2506.

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KNEA is the largest professional association of public educators in the state with a current enrollment of approximately 23,000 members statewide. KNEA members include educators from K-12, higher education, retired, and pre-service student teachers. KNEA holds an annual Representative Assembly where members drive policy decisions throughout the organization.

The mission of KNEA is to advocate for education professionals and to unite our members, Kansans, and the nation to fulfill the promise of public education to prepare every student to succeed in a diverse and independent world.

Press Conference Attendee Information:

David Schauner, General Counsel, KNEA

Karen Godfrey, President, KNEA

Mark Farr, Vice President, KNEA

Claudette Johns, Executive Director, KNEA

Mark Desetti, Director of Political Advocacy & Government Relations, KNEA

Marcus Baltzell, Director of Communications, KNEA

*Please Note- Additional questions or follow-up requests should be directed to:

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