

HB 1251

Education Committee

Testimony of Jalen Bichler

January 20th, 2025

Madem chair and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for proposed bill to prohibit extracurricular school activities that designate specific “family days.”

It is essential to ensure that families have uninterrupted time to connect, celebrate, and recharge on some of the most significant holidays of the year. New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter Sunday as “family days” reflects a deep respect for cultural, historical, and religious traditions that hold great meaning for individuals across our state.

Extracurricular activities, while important to student growth, often demand significant time and energy from students, parents, and coaches. This bill recognizes the importance of striking a balance between school commitments and family priorities. As a past athlete having practice on some of these “family days” would hinder the traditions and plans I had with my family. It would have been nice to enjoy New Years Day and Independence Day with my family but also to have had a day to recharge my body and mental health. My family loves going on trips and “optional” practices or events are not truly optional. Imagine a family has a tradition of visiting a fallen Veteran in their family but cannot because of extracurricular activities.

I urge a “do pass” recommendation on this bill, that promotes a balanced, family-centered approach to education and extracurricular involvement. By passing this bill, you promote the value of family connections and help preserve traditions.

Thank you for your consideration, and I stand for questions at this time.