



Kansas  National  
Education Association

**AFT Kansas and KNEA Joint Statement**  
**27 October 2022**

The American Federation of Teachers – Kansas and the Kansas National Education Association condemn congressional candidate Amanda Adkins for her comments regarding public education on 25 October.

At this week’s debate between Sharice Davids and Amanda Adkins, the moderators asked Ms. Adkins if she thought there should even be a federal Department of Education. She was unable to provide a direct answer to that question, and instead talked about states’ rights. Ms. Davids, in her rebuttal, stated that yes, there should be a Department of Education and federal funding for public education, and tied Ms. Adkins to former Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos.

Betsy DeVos built a political career on the back of dismantling, defunding, and disparaging public education at the local, state, and federal level. Any candidate, for any office, who cannot recognize and appreciate the value of a strong public education system is the wrong candidate.

Our organizations are committed to providing high-quality public education, protecting the rights of public educators, and preparing every student to succeed. Ms. Adkins’s response to this very simple question tells us that she is ready to jeopardize the health, safety, and quality of education of Kansas public schools.

Ron Hobert  
AFT-Kansas President

Sherri Schwanz  
Kansas NEA President