

**Fair Representation in Club Charters Requiring Youth Approval and Neutrality With Accountability**

**Limiting the Tyrannical Education of Regional Superintendents.” Act of 2025 Report**

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Today was an excellent beginning to the 57th session of O.I.L. After reviewing the bill packet, I have decided to encourage House Bill No. ORU-517, authored by House Rep. Osei (ORU), to be seen. This is an amendatory bill to 70 O.S. §3-107.1. The original bill states, “The State Superintendent of Public Instruction shall have the control of and direct the State Department of Education” etc. The amendment poses that the State Superintendent “shall not establish, direct, authorize, or implement any student club, organization, or chapter on the campus of a public secondary school (grades nine (9) through twelve (12)).” After discussion with the author, I found that this amendment was crafted in retaliation to former State Superintendent Ryan Walters publicly stating, “We will be putting TPUSA on every high school campus in Oklahoma. Charlie Kirk inspired a generation to love America, to speak boldly, and to never shy away from debate. Our kids must get involved and active.” Osei (ORU) commented that he is concerned this could create precedent for the State Superintendent to overstep their authority over district-specific superintendents and board members. He believes that whatever clubs a school or district decides to have should be left solely to local leadership, not statewide. I believe presenting this bill would promote the type of healthy and comprehensive debate O.I.L. stands for.

The proponent argument for this bill would most likely follow the lines of local autonomy within school districts. Realistically, from this perspective, allowing the State Superintendent to require active clubs, as Walters proposed, could mean statewide enforcement of many types of organizations, a TPUSA chapter, a Gay-Straight Alliance, or even a Student Government Association. Formally withholding this ability from the State Superintendent would end any possibility in the future regarding these types of issues.

Opponents might argue that maintaining this authority would allow the State Superintendent to require schools in rural areas to enact certain clubs on campus. While this ability has not been used in the past, leaving it unrestricted may encourage the State Superintendent to act in that manner, creating precedent. Requiring statewide clubs like a student council or student government could encourage

more student participation, creating a broader group of well-rounded students across the state. Club participation among high school students is crucial for their development, often providing opportunities not available in small rural schools. While this is a rather niche argument, presenting it would give a voice to those students who are often unheard.

This bill should be seen because the arguments on both the proponent and opponent sides will be unique and nuanced. As mentioned, encouraging this type of debate is what O.I.L. is, and should be rewarded and offered whenever possible.

*Sources:*

*Walters Statement: [://oklahoma.gov/education/newsroom/2025/september/superintendent-walters---every-high-school-will-have-a-tpusa-clu.html#:~:text=%E2%80%9CWe%20will%20be%20putting%20TPUSA,active%E2%80%9D%20said%20Superintendent%20Ryan%20Walters](https://oklahoma.gov/education/newsroom/2025/september/superintendent-walters---every-high-school-will-have-a-tpusa-clu.html#:~:text=%E2%80%9CWe%20will%20be%20putting%20TPUSA,active%E2%80%9D%20said%20Superintendent%20Ryan%20Walters).*