

**Testimony before the House Education Committee
In Opposition to HB 2457**

By

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Representative Ron Highland, Chairman,

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony in opposition to HB 2457 which, if passed, allows for tax credits diverting state funds to scholarships for private education in the State of Kansas.

I have read arguments in favor of this legislation, including increasing school choice. I would like to make several arguments against the bill:

- 1) Although this bill would increase school choice for some, the increase in choice would be limited to the more populous areas of the state because of the lack of private schools in rural areas.
- 2) No matter how it is structured, it will divert funds from other parts of the budget, including public education.
- 3) It can be seen as supporting religious instruction.
- 4) It provides support for institutions that are not subject to the same accountability for education outcomes that are required of public schools.
- 5) It does not prevent private schools from discriminating in regard to race or economic status.
- 6) Administration of the program will place additional expense on state government.

As a taxpayer and voter I oppose this legislation for the reasons given above and urge the committee not to support it.

David J Hand