

SB 128 – Ad Astra Opportunity Tax Credit

Proponent Testimony

Oral In-Person

Cassie Crotinger, Microschool Guide

Topeka, KS

Honorable Chairman Tyson, Vice-Chair Peck, Ranking Minority Holland, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of SB 128. I am a mother of 3 who is guiding a microschool with 6 students this year and I support the Ad Astra Opportunity Tax Credit. Through my parenting journey we have engaged in traditional public schooling, homeschooling and currently a microschool/learning pod therefore, I have experience with a variety of educational settings. At each stage of development we seek to provide the best well rounded educational experience that fits our children's needs.

I believe this tax credit would greatly increase the access to quality education for many Kansans who do not enroll in public school. Our biggest obstacle as a family when making educational choices has always been financial. There is an ever increasing number of wonderful education options in today's world. However, if we do not have financial access to those choices for children then it remains out of reach. I have made the choice in the past to homeschool vs. private school due to cost.

Families who provide for a child's education should be allowed to keep some of their tax money that would have otherwise been used to fund public education. This allows them to have greater freedom in choosing how and where the children's education will take place. Currently we are excluded from accessing public funds for education if we choose to pursue private school options.

I support this tax credit because it increases the accessibility and freedom of choice in education. I believe that continued freedom of choice and increased access will allow for healthy competition among private programs that will lead to higher quality education for all.

I kindly ask for your support of SB 128 for these reasons.

Thank you,

Cassie Crotinger, Microschool Guide

Topeka, KS