

Opposition Regarding SB 128 - Ad Astra Opportunity Tax Credit.  
Written Testimony  
Michael Steddum,  
Spring Hill, KS.

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

I recently submitted testimony in support of this bill, SB 128 as my family has been homeschooling since the beginning of the pandemic. At the time, the idea of having this much tax credit to spend on my family's education was an enticing thing. Since submitting that testimony, I have since done more research about what it could mean for other children in the state. As much as this would benefit my family, the lack of accountability for families that receive this funding could be detrimental to many children to shore up family finances. I'm not well off, but I am confident in my ability to continue to meet my children's needs at their current educational levels. More than I want my children to have field trips and see museums, etc., I want to ensure that our state is adequately funding public education and ensuring the quality of education remains high. If there was some accountability to say the public funds are going to be used to meet certain educational markers for children that benefit from this program, then so be it. However, I think that it is much more likely that the funds will be abused, and kids will be removed from public school in order to give a certain kind of education that leans heavily on personal beliefs than it does quality of education.

So, with that, I would like to strike my former testimony from the record, and instead urge the leaders reading this to insist on quality public education options, instead of supporting this bill.

Thank you,  
Michael Steddum,  
Spring Hill, KS